

Hafa Adai!

Tinian beef festival starts today. PAGE 3

E-gaming operators file ethics complaint vs Yumul. PAGE 5

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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NEW NURSING ASSISTANTS

Eighteen Northern Marianas College students recently completed the college's 10-week Nursing Assistant Training Program and are now eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program Competency Examination and become a certified nursing assistant. Throughout the 10 weeks in the program, the students learned about basic nursing care for the elderly, ill, and persons with disabilities in long-term care, hospitals, clinics, schools, and home health settings.

NMC

Subpoenas OK'd for Torres, Palacios

New QC Program is key to attracting investors to the Marianas

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



When the CNMI House and Senate unanimously passed House Bill 22-21, transforming the Commonwealth Development Authority into the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, the Marianas created a centralized agency that would take the lead in conducting proactive outreach

See TOGETHER on Page 4

JGO also OKs subpoena for first lady Diann Torres, DPS Commissioner Guerrero, others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives' Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee approved yesterday subpoenas that will require Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero, and several others to testify before the JGO in its probe on Torres' expenditures of

Demapan elected House minority leader

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Nine members of the House of Representatives unanimously elected yesterday Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) to serve as House minority leader, a position that became vacant due to the untimely



Demapan

passing of Ivan A. Blanco.

Demapan said he assumes the role of minority leader with great humility and respect for the confidence of his colleagues. He visited House Speaker Edmund S. Vilagomez (Ind-

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

public funds and travels.

JGO chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) said the date of the witnesses' testimony would be subject to the availability of the House chamber and the JGO members' schedules.

The JGO also agreed to
See SUBPOENAS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:53pm, Aug. 12, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **74.2%**

Days since last community transmission **142**

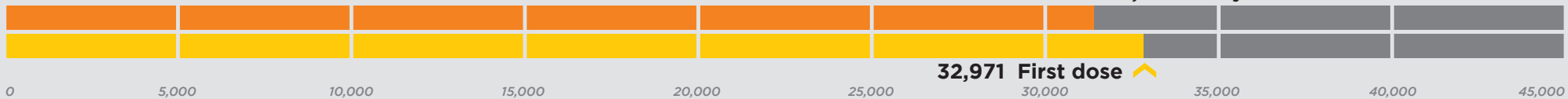
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	28,570
Fully Vaccinated:	26,659
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,401
Fully Vaccinated:	4,148
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	629

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,817	48	8,865
Recovered	8,406	3	8,409
Active	265	48	313
Deaths	143	0	143

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	211	0	211
Traced via Travel Screening	174	0	174
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Center for Living Independently and E-Land Group come together for arts & crafts.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS

Bank of Guam announces the launch of its new website, bankofguam.com.

PAGE 15



ASIA

New Zealand plans to cautiously reopen its borders to international travelers early next year.

PAGE 16



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

OAG wants E-Land lawsuit dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General, which represents the defense in the lawsuit filed by Mariana E-Land Corp. against the Department of Public Lands over the cancellation of their lease agreement, has requested the Superior Court to dismiss, E-Land's case with prejudice.

In his motion to dismiss filed last Tuesday, John Lowrey, OAG civil division chief and counsel to DPL, asked the Superior Court to dismiss the E-Land's lawsuit with prejudice for failing to state a claim.

To dismiss a case with prejudice means the case will be permanently dismissed and cannot be filed again.

"E-Land has failed to state a claim for relief for all causes of action, and its complaint should be dismissed with prejudice and without leave to amend, because any amendment would be futile," Lowrey said.

In addition, he said, DPL lawfully rescinded the notice of award because the proposed lease did not comply with DPL regulations. "Because DPL's decision to rescind the notice of award to E-Land was

lawful and required by regulations, E-Land cannot prevail on its claim for injunctive relief," Lowrey said.

He explained that E-Land never formed a contract with DPL regarding the RFP, and any lease agreement would need to be approved by the attorney general and Legislature before it could take effect.

Lowrey added that a lease that does not comply with DPL's regulations is void, and must be rejected as outside of DPL's legal capacity. Had the attorney general not rejected the lease, it would still have been void, Lowrey added.

"Even if the attorney general did not reject the lease, and DPL did not rescind the notice of award to E-Land, DPL could not agree to E-Land's suggested changes to the lease and the parties would not have been able to execute a final lease. Assuming that DPL accepted E-Land's suggested changes, the attorney general did not reject the lease, and the lease was not yet discovered to be void ab initio for failure to comply with DPL's regulations, the CNMI Legislature would still have to approve the lease. Per Commonwealth law, DPL 'may not transfer an

See OAG on Page 4



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BEEF, BEER & BANDS FESTIVAL**Tinian beef festival starts today**

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian's first-ever Beef, Beer & Bands Festival kicks off today at 5pm at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds in San Jose Village and ends on Sunday, Aug. 15.

The festival—created to highlight Tinian's local beef, its cattle industry, and the recent U.S. Department of Agriculture certification of Tinian's Kualidat Meat Processing Center—will feature live entertainment from the winners of the recent Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam and others; a Tinian Top Chef Competition where cooks submit their best dishes using Tinian beef for judge evaluation; beer garden; roasted cow display; and a raffle.

To entice Saipan residents to visit the festival, the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan collaborated with Star Marianas Air, Inc. to provide a special promotion for the first 100 passengers who book a flight to Tinian this weekend, at a cost of just \$45.50 round-trip for each traveler. Those wishing to see if they can avail of this promotion can do so by calling SMA's Reservations Department at (670) 433-9996.

For live entertainment, Tini-

an has brought on Sugar King, Groove Theory, Blue Wave, and other performers. On top of the cooking competition, the festival will feature a raffle that has a grand prize of a live cow donated by the Tinian Cattlemen's Association. Consolation raffle prizes will be distributed throughout the duration of the festival as well. Festival-goers can purchase a set of six raffle tickets for \$5.

There will be an opening ceremony for the festival and the Tinian Top Chef Competition on Friday from 5pm to 11pm; and a Bento Box Competition, beer garden, and roasted cow display from 10am to midnight on Saturday. The final day of the festival on Sunday will run from 10am to 5pm, and will feature the drawing of one lucky winner of a live cow. There will be live entertainment on all three days.

COVID-19 Task Force guidelines will be implemented during the three-day event.

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Court denies motion to dismiss case of man accused of rape

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied four of the five motions filed by the defense attorney of a 17-year-old accused of raping a 24-year-old woman back in June 2019. One of the motions that were denied was the motion to dismiss for violation of his rights to a speedy trial.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan denied four of the five dispositive motions filed by defense counsel Brien Sers Nicholas for 17-year-old Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat, who is charged with three different counts of sexual assault in the first degree.

Suspects who are minors are not usually identified in court stories but *Saipan Tribune* is making an exception in this case as the suspect is being tried as an adult.

Aside from the motion to dismiss for violation of the suspect's right to a speedy trial, Nicholas also filed a motion to dismiss counts II and IV; a motion to compel discovery; a motion to suppress evidence; and a motion to make Kaipat's juvenile records public.

Bogdan, in a 20-page order, denied the motions to dismiss for speedy trial violation, motion to dismiss Counts II and IV, motion to make public juvenile records, and motion to compel discovery, citing deficiencies in Nicholas' motions.

"Defendant's motions contain little or no meaningful discussion of the relevant case law, and do not apply such case law to the facts of this case. In fact, several of the briefing papers contain little to no citations whatsoever," the judge said.

Bogdan said the defendant has not demonstrated actual and substantial prejudice as a result of pre-accusatory delay in his motion to dismiss for speed trial violation.

Bogdan noted that the defendant claims he had to spend over 10 months at Department of Correction, and that he was unable to attend school, ultimately violating his rights. However, court documents show that the defendant was detained in the juvenile facility, which is attached to the adult criminal facility, but is separated by sight and sound as legally required by both federal and CNMI laws.

"That facility has been inspected

and approved as a juvenile facility. Additionally, while there is a presumption of release for juveniles, it can be rebutted when the Commonwealth makes a showing that release would be contrary to the welfare of society or the juvenile. Commonwealth statutes provide for pretrial detention because it is appropriate in some cases. Here, the court agrees with the Commonwealth that the fact that this defendant was detained in juvenile custody during the pendency of his juvenile case does not establish prejudice. Finally, the court finds the argument that defendant had to attend school virtually holds no merit. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly all students in the CNMI had to partake in virtual classes," he said.

In regards to the order denying the defense motion to dismiss counts II and IV as "multiplicitous," Bogdan said because sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree have at least one element that the other does not have, a conviction under either would not violate double jeopardy, and are not multiplicitous.

In denying the defense's motion to

allow for the public release or disclosure of the records of the suspect's juvenile case, Bogdan said the defense has the right to access the juvenile records in this case in order to defend his client, but the instant motion does not by itself provide a compelling reason or show good cause to make a full public disclosure of his juvenile records.

"Defense counsel's argument for the use of the entire record generated in the juvenile proceedings and/or witness testimony given in the juvenile case in this criminal trial following waiver of the juvenile court's

jurisdiction is totally undeveloped and unsupported by any legal citation or specific reference," the judge said.

As for the defense's motion to compel discovery, Bogdan said the defendant has not pointed to any item with particularity that the Commonwealth may be withholding.

According to court documents, the Office of the Attorney General charged Kaipat with sexual assault and other offenses in adult court after the court granted the criminal division's request to transfer Kaipat's case from juvenile court to adult court back in May.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

and promotion of our islands as premier locations for investments.

Under the new law, CEDA was given tools to perform its mandate, one of which is the implementation of the Qualifying Certificate Program. Our last QC Program was formulated in 2000, and the last application made was in 2017 with only three applicants in the last five years. These numbers are telling us that the 21-year-old program must adapt to the current market conditions and make the Marianas more attractive to prospective investors.

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers has suggested amendments to the QC Program and is pleased that these changes are strongly considered with the House's passage of the Investment Incentive Act of 2021. Also known as House Bill 22-70 and authored by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the proposal would reform the Investment Incentive Act of 2000. One provision on the bill would require CEDA to create a targeted industry listing or determine the industries eligible to apply for the QC Program in line with the five-year economic development goals of the Marianas.

The Investment Incentive Act of 2000 listed "areas" (e.g. water parks, theme parks) of businesses eligible for the QC Program. Two decades later, a majority of them (e.g. aquarium, dinner theater) are now deemed unviable in the Marianas.

The Investment Incentive Act of 2021 calls for the implementation of the North American Industry Classification System in identifying the targeted industry listing (e.g. Accommodations and Food Services, Information, Construction, Utilities,

Finance and Insurance, Agriculture).

The new QC Program also contains critical provisions for the incentives we could offer to companies that are interested in investing or expanding their businesses here. Providing typical tax relief and abatements would not be enough to lure investors. To make the Marianas more competitive in the market, CEDA is tasked to formulate and implement the CNMI Strategic Investment Program.

The plan will include identifying feasible locations for development, along with the economic potential of the investment. It will also provide pre-approved tax incentives, and permitting authorizations for the project. Once the land to be developed has been identified and pre-approved for development, CEDA would go out in the market and solicit proposals from investors to implement the planned development.

The proposed Investment Incentive Act of 2021 has safeguards in place for vetting legitimate investors, as CEDA will be authorized to charge non-refundable due diligence and compliance fees for companies applying for the QC Program.

Another critical component of House Bill 22-70 is the establishment of economic development zones. Each of the islands has unique opportunities to offer investors. Development should not be limited to Saipan and must be extended to Rota and Tinian as well.

With the support of our lawmakers and other stakeholders, CEDA will have the necessary tools to do its job and push for economic diversification in The Marianas.

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

USCG commissions 3 fast response cutters in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Coast Guard's three newest fast response cutters were commissioned last July 29 during a ceremony presided over by Coast Guard commandant Adm. Karl Schultz.

The Coast Guard cutters *Myrtle Hazard*, *Oliver Henry*, and *Frederick Hatch* were commissioned during a rare triple-commissioning ceremony at their new homeport at Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam.

"The triple commissioning of Coast Guard cutters *Myrtle Hazard*, *Oliver Henry*, and *Frederick Hatch* signals our

dedication to regional partners and the growing maritime demand in the region," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander, Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam. "It was an honor to celebrate this historic event with the crews, families and sponsors for each cutters' namesake."

Like the 30-year old Island-class patrol boats before them, they will support the people of Guam, the CNMI, and international partners throughout Oceania. The FRCs represent the Coast Guard's commitment to modernizing service assets

to address the increasingly complex global Maritime Transportation System.

The Coast Guard already has a well established presence within the region due to its bilateral shiprider agreements with Pacific Island Forum countries. These shiprider agreements allow partnering nations' defense and law enforcement officers to go aboard Coast Guard vessels to observe, board and search vessels suspected of violating laws or regulations within their exclusive economic zones. (**USCG**)

SUBPOENAS

From Page 1

subpoena first lady Diann T. Torres and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho.

The subpoena will also ask Torres, Palacios, Diann Torres, and Gary Camacho to produce certain documents.

It was Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) who moved to issue subpoenas for Ralph DLG Torres, Palacios, Diann Torres, and Camacho.

Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan) made the motion to issue subpoenas for Boating Safety officers Emery Kaipat, Adrian Mendiola, and Kevin Aldan.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) made the motion to issue subpoenas

for Guerrero, and personal security details for first lady Diann Torres: Flora Aguon and Jhaneeka Atalig.

Rep. Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan) moved to issue a subpoena for governor's executive assistant Frances Dela Cruz to testify, and for PSD supervisor Joey Cruz to produce documents.

The JGO previously approved a subpoena for Cruz to testify.

Babauta said they will go back into recess and work on these subpoenas that they just approved and will return on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 10:30am.

Before the start of yesterday's JGO meeting, Babauta gave a recap of what happened prior to their recess.

She said they had Erin Angela Vilagomez Camacho of the Women, Infants, and Children Program submit a notarized affidavit that on March 7, 2019 she and her father went to Kin-

pachi Restaurant in Garapan to celebrate a private birthday lunch with her father Juan Aguon Camacho, who was the birthday celebrant.

Babauta said Erin Camacho states that after they finished their meal, restaurant staff advised her that Torres had already paid their meal.

Babauta said the governor subsequently submitted a reimbursement memo for a total amount of \$2,332 on April 9 2019, which include a receipt from Kinpachi Restaurant dated March 7, 2019, for the amount of \$134.

Also, Babauta said, DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicle director Juana C. Leon Guerrero confirmed for the JGO Committee that Torres purchased a private vehicle, bought a car battery for it, and then had the purchase reimbursed two days later.

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

Saipan) to personally inform him of his election as minority leader and extended his willingness to continue Blanco's open and diplomatic lines of communication.

Blanco, 45, passed away last July 23 due to massive pulmonary embolism.

Demapan said that Blanco left behind very big shoes to fill, and that it is the commitment of the House minority bloc to honor him by continuing his vision for a stronger and safer community.

"Our hearts are still heavy with the passing of our dear brother, minority leader Ivan A. Blanco, but we also recognize that he would've wanted us to continue the work he had be-

gun," he said.

Demapan is serving his third term in the House, having served in the 19th, 20th, and 22nd legislatures.

The other members of the House minority bloc are vice speaker Blas Jonathan B.J. Attao, floor leader Ralph Yumul, and Reps. Roy Ada, Joel Camacho, Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero, Joseph Flores, John Paul Sablan, and Patrick San Nicolas.

OAG

From Page 2

interest in more than five hectares of public land for use for commercial purposes without approval of the Legislature in a joint session," Lowrey said.

Last month, E-Land, which owns and operates Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, and Pacific Islands Club, sued DPL and acting Secretary Sixto Igisomar, in his official capacity, for the cancellation of the Mariana Resort property

lease agreement.

In its suit, E-Land asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to prevent DPL and/or the acting secretary from reissuing RFP20-RED004 until such time that the court has ruled on E-Land's complaint.

Last month, following an agreement between E-Land and DPL, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho issued a preliminary injunction preventing DPL from reissuing RFP-RED004 pending a determination of the merits of the plaintiff's complaint that was filed on July 13.

E-gaming operators file ethics complaint against Rep. Yumul

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The operators of Saipan Vegas and Club 88 have filed an ethics complaint against Rep. Ralph N. Yumul with the House of Representatives for introducing a bill that led to its enactment despite previously acknowledging that he has a conflict of interest because his brother is the chief executive officer of their competitor, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

MP Holdings, LLC and Mariana Entertainment LLC, which are the owners of Saipan Vegas and Club 88, respectively, submitted Monday their ethics complaint before House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) based on Yumul's participation in the legislative process that led to the enactment of House Local Bill 22-8.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from Yumul.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said last night that he needs to meet first with the House legal counsel on this matter.

MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment said their complaint arises out of the recent passage of House Local Bill 22-8 (enacted as SLL 22-6), which became effective on Aug. 2, 2021. That law, they said, essentially doubles the license fees imposed on

e-gaming machines—from \$2,500 per e-gaming machine or 15% of gross gaming revenue derived from that machine, to \$5,000 per e-gaming machine or 30% of gross gaming revenue derived from that machine.

The e-gaming clubs' owners said Yumul should not have been involved with HLB 22-8. It was Yumul who introduced that bill.

They said that, in February 2021, Yumul clearly understood that he should not be involved with matters that relate to IPI, which is their competitor and where Yumul's brother, former senator Ray Yumul, is the chief executive officer. The complainants noted that Rep. Yumul resigned from the House Gaming Committee because his brother is IPI's CEO.

The complainants pointed out that an impartial observer will have no trouble concluding that Rep. Yumul had a conflict of interest when he proposed and voted on punitive legislation that doubled the taxes on MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment, IPI's only competitors in the e-gaming market.

They said the rushed passage and cursory review of HLB 22-8 highlight Rep. Yumul's conflict of interest. They said Rep. Yumul introduced HLB 22-8 on April 13, 2021, and that bill was not referred to any committees. Instead, they said, HLB 22-8 sat for

six weeks until June 18, 2021, when it was finally sent to the Mayor of Saipan and the Mayor of the Northern Mariana Islands for comment.

Five days later, they said, at Rep. Yumul's urging, and without waiting for the 30-day mayoral statutory comment period to expire, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation passed HLB 22-8 on the first and final reading.

They said HLB 22-8 was not published in the CNMI Register and that Rep. Yumul discouraged further comments on the legislation prior to its passage.

The complainants said no one consulted them regarding the massive tax increase.

MP Holdings and Mariana Entertainment asked the House to inquire into the circumstances surrounding introduction and passage of HLB-8, and, if necessary, discipline Rep. Yumul for violating House ethical standards.

Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 consultant Gus Noble stated last weekend that this law renders their businesses financially unstable and could force them to shut down, resulting in the loss of jobs for

over 70 Saipan local residents.

MP Holdings owns and operates Saipan Vegas in Chalan Laulau. Mariana Entertainment

owns and operates Club 88 in Garapan. At present, these entities are the only active e-gaming companies on Saipan.

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Humanities grant program to help CNMI groups affected by COVID-19

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has launched the American Sātba - Ammalaw Program, or ASAP, a new grant-making program created to award funds to CNMI nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and accredited public and 501(c)(3) institutions of higher education affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Northern Marianas Humanities Council was awarded \$203,935 by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to support activities that help organizations prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the coronavirus.

The application period opens today, Aug. 13, 2021, and closes on Sept. 30, 2021. Applicants can request up to \$20,000 for humanities projects, strategic planning, capacity building, technical support, and other activities related to preparing, responding to, and recovering from the coronavirus. Applicants with humanities-focused missions or purposes may also apply for funding to support general op-

erating costs.

During the month of August, the council will be conducting the following information sessions:

■ Aug. 16, 2021, 5:30pm at MANGO conference room, Springs Plaza Bldg.

■ August 18, 2021, 10:00am at Tinian Mayor's Office conference room;

■ August 23, 2021, 9:30am via Zoom: <http://www.nmh-council.org/asapwebinar>;

■ August 25, 2021, 1:00pm at Rota Mayor's Office conference room.

With the exception of info sessions scheduled via Zoom, in-person sessions will have limited seating and participants will be admitted on a space-available basis and in accordance with current COVID-19 social gathering protocols.

Visit <http://www.nmh-council.org/asap> for ASAP application materials and instructions.

Email Northern Marianas Humanities Council staff at asap@nmhcouncil.org for assistance and support. To stay updated, follow us on Instagram and Facebook at 670humanities. (PR)

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**BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Center for Living Independently on Tinian soon

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian will soon have its own Center for Living Independently in the CNMI.

According to CLI-CNMI executive director Susan Satur yesterday, Tinian has requested her office to have a full-blown facility much like

the CLI-CNMI main location on Capital Hill. The goal, she said, is to have CLIs on both Tinian and Rota. Soon after yesterday's interview, Satur joined a virtual meeting with the Tinian leadership to discuss the creation of the Tinian facility.

Currently, CLI-CNMI's Saipan office operates out of a

model home that provides instruction in daily living skills for individuals with disabilities. The facility features a garden, kitchen, laundry room, and computer room, among other things.

As for Rota, Satur said she will speak with the Rota leadership in the upcoming months and acknowledged that each

of the CNMI's handicapped communities have their own different needs.

"We're trying to open a center [on] Tinian just like the center here...but the center on Rota will be a different type of center, as each community has their own needs and we're trying to meet the needs of that community," said Satur.

When asked for a timeline for the creation of a CLI in Tinian, Satur said that CLI first needs the go-ahead of the legislative delegation for Tinian and Aguiguan before it can begin planning the creation of the Tinian facility. "The sooner the better, because we're really trying to meet their needs", said Satur.

Grant awarded to expand and interpret the Tinian National Historic Landmark

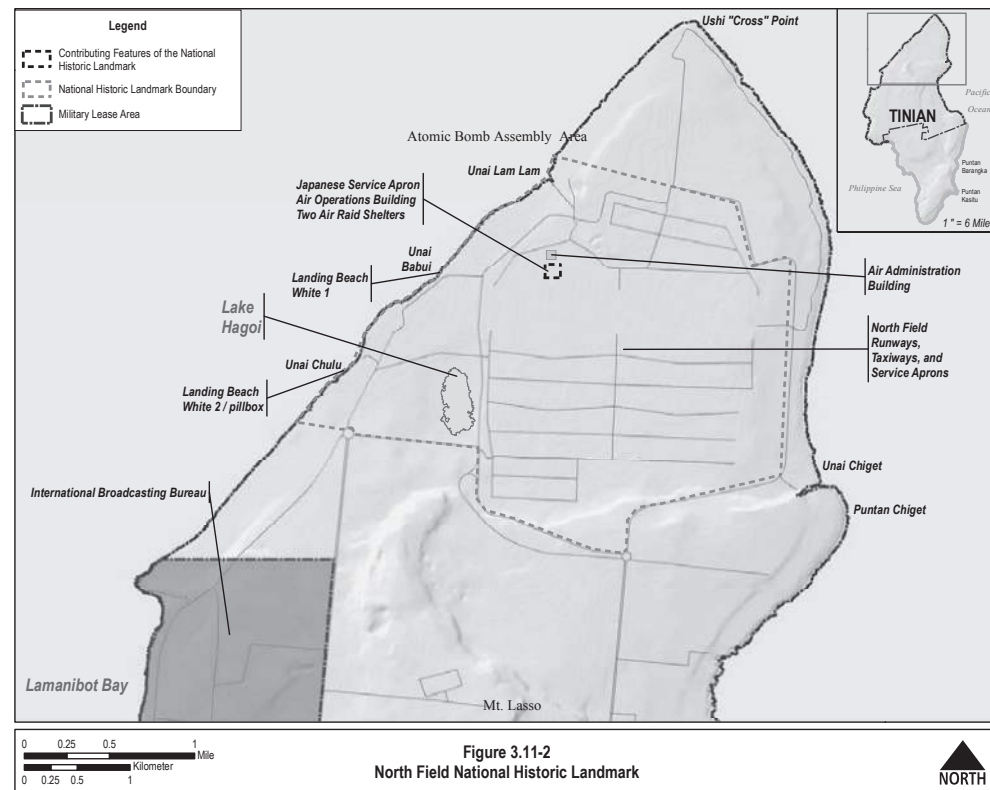


Figure 3.11-2
North Field National Historic Landmark

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council was recently awarded nearly \$92,000 in funds from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program to expand and interpret the Tinian National Historic Landmark.

The Tinian NHL is a pristine World War II battlefield in northern Tinian. Significant sites in the landmark include the two invasion beaches; Japanese defensive bunkers, caves, tunnels, and gun positions; concrete buildings and other sites associated with the Japanese airfield at Ushi Point; North Field's four runways, taxiways, and hardstands; sites associated with the atomic bomb attacks including the atomic bomb loading pits and the 509th Bomb Group

camp area; and remnants of Camp Chulu.

Funds from the grant will expand the Tinian NHL boundaries to include Mt. Lasso and the area on Tinian where the atomic bombs were assembled.

Additionally, grant funds will be used to develop up to 20 signs explaining the history of significant sites on the battlefield. Interpretation will incorporate diverse perspectives, photographs, and maps. Signage will contain scannable QR codes linked to a companion website. The signs will be in the CNMI's three official languages: Chamorro, Carolinian, and English. Interpretive text and other information on the website, in addition to the three official languages, will also be presented in the main tourist languages—Japanese, Korean, and Chinese—to enhance the visitor experience.

The interpretive signs will allow for underrepresented perspectives from WWII to have their story told. For example, plans from the grant include signage regarding the resettlement of Tinian by Chamorros in the immediate post-war period; the perspective of Japanese defenders as the battle for Tinian was underway; contributions by African-American and Native American troops in the capture of Tinian and more.

NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan said the project will help community members understand the role Tinian played during WWII.

"Unlike battlegrounds [on] Saipan and Palau, the Tinian National Historic Landmark is underappreciated, despite being the staging ground for efforts that would bring about the end of World War II. The erecting of interpretive signs around the landmark is an opportunity for community members and visitors to deepen their understanding of the important role Tinian has had in history," he said.

Redrawing of the Tinian NHL boundaries begins in November 2021, with research and creation of interpretive signs continuing until 2023. (PR)



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan

TEL. NO. 664-8300 | FAX NO. 664-8315

www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of August 13, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of the Mayor of Rota	07/23/2021 RPIIm-2021-001	West Harbor New Road Access	West Harbor, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 08/11/2021
2. USA Fanter Corp., Ltd.	07/26/2021 SCHm-2021-042	Temporary Staging & Stockpiling and Field Office	Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Coastal Hazard	Approved* 08/02/2021
3. Department of Public Works	07/27/2021 SS-2021-043	Route 33 (Beach Road) & Route 315 (Quarter Master Road) Intersection Improvements & Installation Of Traffic Signal System	Beach Rd, Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/30/2021
4. Department of Public Lands	07/27/2021 SSLRm-2021-044	Mañagaha Pier Rehabilitation	Mañagaha Island	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 08/09/2021
5. Marianas Visitors Authority	07/29/2021 SSm-2021-045	Hafa Adai Tirow Summer Jam	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/29/2021
6. Saipan Crew Boats Inc.	07/30/2021 SPIm-2021-046	Drydock (C/B Shamrock)	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 08/03/2021
7. Fang Wang	08/11/2021 SW-2021-047	Installation of Four Single-Story Pre-Fabricated Container Houses	Susupe, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
8. Lino M. Olopoi	08/09/2021 SSCH-2021-048	Demolition & Soil Testing	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



E-Land Group staff members and participants of the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI share a group photo after the two organizations came together yesterday for an arts & crafts activity at CLI-CNMI's main location on Capital Hill, making drink coasters using upcycled sea glass. Next activity for E-Land and CLI-CNMI will be a "cooking adventure."

JOSHUA SANTOS

E-Land Group, CLI create handmaid drink coasters

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI and real estate company E-Land Group—which currently manages the Coral Ocean Golf Resort, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Kensington Hotel Saipan—came together for an arts and crafts activity yesterday at CLI-CNMI's main location on Capital Hill, making drink coasters using upcycled sea glass.

Lindsay Ahn, corporate social responsibility manager for E-Land Group, said they took part in the event because E-Land Group wanted to engage with the community in a way that was "not volunteering, but more like hanging out and having a joint activity with the center."

Yesterday's activity was the first in a series of four events hosted by E-Land Group for the benefit of individuals with disabilities. E-Land's past community outreach efforts consisted of infrastructure

improvement projects, beach cleanups, and donations.

Ahn also envisions a future where E-Land would help CLI-CNMI's participants sell their arts and crafts to tourists, with earnings going directly back to CLI-CNMI. "[As the quality] improves, then they can make all their own souvenirs so that [E-Land] can sell them to tourists, and the revenue goes back to the center. ...It's a long-term goal, and [it would] help them toward living independently," said Ahn.

For CLI-CNMI executive director Susan Satur, she said it has been a pleasure working closely with Ahn to put together the events. "Lindsay at E-Land has been delightful, and they are really trying to help our community, especially our disabilities community, and we're very appreciative of that," said Satur.

Next up for E-Land and CLI-CNMI will be a "cooking adventure," an "adventure in the gardens," and a fourth activity that is to be decided.

Tropical depression still moving toward Marianas

Although Tropical Depression 16W continues in the direction of the Marianas, the system looks to be weakening.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, as of yesterday, maximum sustained winds from Tropical Depression 16W have decreased to 30 mph.

Tropical Depression 16W is expected to have small fluctuations in intensity, possibly increasing back to 35 mph today before weakening again over the weekend.

The latest intensity forecasts

keep 16W a tropical depression through the weekend.

The center of Tropical Depression 16W was last located near latitude 12.1 degrees north and longitude 173.5 degrees east. The system continued to move west at 12 mph and is expected to maintain this westward motion the next several days.

At its current speed, Tropical Depression 16W is expected to pass just north of the Marshall Islands by Friday through Saturday. (Kimberly B. Esmores)

COLDWELL ENERGY

A CNMI Company Since 2014

First Electric Cars Coming to Saipan August 2021 Sponsored by Coldwell Energy

Green Energy for a Brighter Future!



Tesla Model x



Nissan Leaf

“Biden signs executive order to replace 50% of our cars to emission free by 2030.”

— The New York Times

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Office 670 322-2653

Expressions of interest sought for Summer Pre-law Program 2022

The NMI Judiciary is announcing a call for interest for its 2022 Summer Pre-law Program. The program is open to college students and graduates. Individuals interested in attending should contact the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Judy T. Aldan, by sending an email to judy.aldan@nmijudiciary.com.

The program will be held on Saipan, and it provides participants with an opportunity to experience first-year law school courses taught by seasoned law school professors. It is a three-weeklong program and includes two substantive

legal subjects, legal writing and analysis workshops, Law School Admission Test preparation workshop, and assistance in preparing law school admission applications.

In addition, the program incorporates a mock appellate hearing before a panel of justices. Participants are also paired with attorney-mentors who provide assistance and guidance.

The Summer Pre-law Program is held every three to four years. Unfortunately, the 2020 schedule was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the years, the pre-law

program has seen over 32 participants obtain their juris doctor degree from law schools across the nation, and most have returned to the Northern Mariana Islands to serve the CNMI community as prosecutors, defense counsel, private practitioners, judge and justice.

In July 2014, Professor Robert J. Desiderio of the University of New Mexico School of Law taught Introductory Contracts and Professor Rose Cuison-Villazor of Rutgers Law School taught Introductory Property. That class produced the following five students who chose to pursue law

school and legal careers:

Anthony H. Aguon, University of San Francisco School of Law and School of Management (2018), Tinian Jr.-Sr. High School; Attorney at Aguon Law Office, LLC on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Carmen V. Borja, University of New Mexico School of Law (2019), Saipan Southern High School; Law Clerk to Justice Perry B. Inos of the Supreme Court of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Savana V. Manglona, University of California Davis School of Law (2019), Mount Carmel School; Attorney at

Liebert Cassidy Whitmore in Sacramento, California.

Janina Maratita, Lewis & Clark Law School (2017), Saipan Southern High School; Policy Analyst at the Office of the Governor, Northern Mariana Islands.

Gretchen A. Smith, University of California Davis School of Law (2018), Marianas High School; Law Clerk to Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona of the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. **(PR)**

CUC ADVISORIES

Scheduled power service interruptions today

There will be two scheduled power service interruptions today, Aug. 13, 2021.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 - GUALO RAI

- Outage Time: 8:30am - 12:30pm
- Areas Affected: Gualo Rai (MacArthur Dr., Treaty Ln., Constitution Pl.)
- Distribution Circuit: Kiya 3
- Water Wells Affected: GR-4 and GR-5 (Water services to the following areas will be affected: Gualo Rai Road, Earhart Dr., MacArthur Dr., Rabat Dr., Isley Pl., Historia Pl., and Espana St.)
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To install five spans of 3-phase primary lines and to relocate transformers and all necessary service drops along MacArthur Dr.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 - AS MATUIS

- Outage Time: 9am - 1pm
- Areas Affected: As Matuis (Suito Dr., Kara Ct., Bayneta Dr., and Rakka Dr.)
- Distribution Circuit: Feeder 7
- Water Wells Affected: MQ10 and MQ-11B (Water services to the following areas will be affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag)
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To replace a rotted primary power pole along Suito Dr. **(PR)**

Power outages next week

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 16, 17, and 18

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021 - KOBLERVILLE



- Outage Time: 9am - 1pm
- Areas Affected: Koblerville (Koblerville Elementary School)
- Outage Time: 9am - 10am
- Areas Affected: Koblerville (As Gonno Rd., Potu Crt., Tinaktak Dr., Buchibuchi Dr., Rosko Ave., Bonelos Ave., Magisa Dr., Roskete Ave., Broas Ave., Empanada Ln., Koblerville Elementary School, Coral Ocean Resort and Katmelo)
- Distribution Circuit: Kiya 2
- Water Well Affected: KV-20
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To re-sag primary lines and to install stirrups to protect the primary lines from arcing damage along As Gonno Rd.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 - PUERTO RICO

- Outage Time: 9am - 1pm
- Areas Affected: Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico Dr., Unai Ln., Maruino Pl., Salasa Pl., Chaocho Pl., and Mattinan Pl.)
- Distribution Circuit: Feeder 1
- Water Well Affected: PR-164
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To replace a rotted primary power pole along Puerto Rico Dr.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 - NAVY HILL

- Outage Time: 9am - 1pm
- Areas Affected: Navy Hill (Saluda St., Publiko Dr., Paluw Ln. and Pattida Dr.)
- Distribution Circuit: Feeder 1
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To replace a rotted primary power pole and anchor along Saluda St. **(PR)**


DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW/MOT-153

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“TINIAN DUMP CLOSURE AND FACILITY FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****



QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. ERIN DERRINGTON, LEAD PLANNER.** VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 30, 2021.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS


DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT


REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW/MOT-152

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 01, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF REMAINING 2018 SUPER TYPHOON YUTU DEBRIS ON THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. ERIN DERRINGTON, LEAD PLANNER.** VIA EMAIL AT erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 25, 2021.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS


NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
 P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
 (This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC IFB 2021-017

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: September 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)

Project package will be available on August 13, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".



The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on August 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net. Bidders are requested to submit via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/S/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/S/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
NMHC Board of Directors


 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PAROLE
 P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
 Tel: Nos: (670) 664-3300 – 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
 E-mail: govbop@pticm.com


TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice than an **Executive Board Meeting** is scheduled for **August 19th & 20th 2021 Thursday – Friday, at 10:00 a.m., at the Rota Mayor's Office, Tatachog Rota, MP 96951.** The following items are included the agenda:

Board of Parole Executive Meeting Agenda

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to order
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of Quorum
- Consent Items**
 - Adoption of Agenda
- New Business**
 - Salary Adjustment for Chief Parole Officer
 - Hiring/Job Opportunity for Officer I, II, III
 - Reallocation of current Administrative Assistant to Administrative Specialist
 - Proposed Revisions of Regulation Title 115
- Miscellaneous**
 - Schedule of next Parole Hearing
 - Schedule of next Executive Meeting
- Adjournment**

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/S/
Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

08/04/2021
Date


Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-HT-SOC-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23rd, 2021 • TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROFESSIONAL SERVICES”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & S SUPPLY


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION


REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/HIT-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROCUREMENT OF CHCC INTER-FACILITY FIBER OPTICS”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Mount Carmel School welcomes new employees for SY 21-22

Mount Carmel School is welcoming back most of last year's teachers and staff, as well as some new and not-so-new faces, in time for the start of the school year.



NORISA CAMACHO

7th and 8th Grade -reading and English language arts teacher

Camacho is a 2002 AlumKnight and returns to the school as Mount Carmel's new teacher for 7th and 8th grade reading and English language arts. Camacho has seven years of teaching experience and holds a bachelor's of arts degree in culinary arts management. As the new school year starts, she is excited to be a part of a great teaching community and to meet her students.

Prior to joining the MCS team, Camacho also served the school as president of the AlumKnight Association, aiding the school in its fundraising efforts with events such as, "A Night with the Knights." Camacho is also a business owner and is the co-owner of "Couples Cakery" a well-known bakery on Saipan that makes customized cakes. When asked how her business experience will impact her lessons in the classroom, Camacho said she is excited to share the importance of hands-on learning, which she intends to incorporate into her lessons.



FLORINDA CHAVEZ

1st grade homeroom teacher

Chavez is a long-time educator bringing 32 years of teaching experience to the MCS family and her first-grade class. Prior to joining the MCS team, Chavez taught for 29 years at Mount Carmel's sister school, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota. Chavez holds a bachelor of arts degree in English and a master of arts degree in education.

ZENO DELEON GUERRERO

9th and 12th grade composition and literature teacher



Zeno Deleon Guerrero is a 2017 AlumKnight and returns to Mount Carmel School as its new teacher for 9th grade composition and literature as well as 12th grade composition. Deleon Guerrero is a recent graduate from the University of Puget Sound and earned his bachelor of arts degree in English with a minor in Japanese.

Returning to the CNMI soon after graduation, Deleon Guerrero said, "I want to start building my career as an educator, and what better way to do so than to serve at the school that nurtured me into the young professional I've become."

STEVEN KAMANAO

Elementary P.E. teacher



Steven Kamanan will serve as Mount Carmel School's new physical education teacher for elementary students. Prior to joining the Mount Carmel School team, Kamanan worked as a program specialist for the Kids At-risk Mentoring Programs, or KAMP, from 2015 to 2020 in Hawaii. His experience working with the youth started as a mentor and tutor in 2008.

ALYSSA SHEERA G. PALATTAO

6th grade science, social studies, and literature teacher



Alyssa Palattao is a new member of the Mount

Carmel School family and brings an extensive academic background holding an associate degree in nursing, a bachelor's degree in business administration, and certificates in child safety and learning and teaching from the Child Care Licensing Program in partnership with DCCA-CCDF, Evergreen Learning Center, and Texas A&M. Palattao also holds a certificate in performance enhancement through the CNMI Public School System in partnership with Instructional Technology & Distance Education, and Northern Marianas College - Community Development Institute.

Prior to joining the Mount Carmel School team, Palattao served as a kindergarten teacher and will continue her professional growth as the incoming sixth grade teacher for science, social studies, and literature.



SHYARALYN SAN NICOLAS

K4 teacher aide

Shyaralyn "Shy" San Nicolas is no stranger to Mount Carmel School, prior to joining the team, Ms. She supported many of Mount Carmel School's events and activities as a volunteer parent. San Nicolas brings a bachelor's degree in management and entrepreneurship, but this will be her first year teaching.

"I wanted to work at Mount Carmel School because of its Catholic identity and teachings. Prior to my employment at MCS, I helped the school as an MCS parent and admired how well-rounded my sons have become as young men. I am proud to serve the school community as teacher aide and to help the school continue to fulfill its mission."

MARIA CARLOTA R. SIMEON



Algebra I, algebra II, physics, and financial literacy teacher

Maria Simeon is a new member of the Mount Carmel School family and brings nearly 20 years of accounting experience. One of the aspects of teaching that excites Simeon the most is her chance to make a difference in the lives of her students.

As a new teacher, Simeon is passionate about the school's mission and aims to help mold her students to excel physically, mentally, academically, and spiritually.



SONY NATIVIDAD

3rd grade homeroom teacher

Sony Natividad is another seasoned teacher bringing 35 years of teaching experience to the Mount Carmel School family. Interested in curriculum and development, Natividad is excited to work with the school to implement new curriculum and strategies to better teach and engage students.



MARY ROSE LUCERO

4th grade homeroom teacher

Mary Rose Lucero is another veteran educator at Mount Carmel School, bringing 24 years of teaching experience. Committed to collaborative learning, Lucero aims to foster a passion for educational growth in her students by encouraging them to share their thoughts, theories, and ideas in the classroom.

CHRISTOPHER KWARCANY

Geography, U.S. History, and world history teacher

Christopher Kwarciany brings an array of professional skills and experience to the school community with six years of teaching experience. This school year, Kwarciany will teach seventh-grade geography, eighth-grade U.S. History, and tenth-grade world history. He presently holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy in interdisciplinary studies from Miami University of Ohio. Prior to teaching at Mount Carmel School, Kwarciany served as an English as a second language teacher in Korea and China and in the CNMI Public

School System.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-037

A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)

& ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) - Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior - via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FLORO JR.)
A. BAUTISTA) FCD-DI CIVIL
PETITIONER) ACTION NO.
VS.) 20-0260
EMELITA BASAS)
BAUTISTA) SUMMONS FOR
RESPONDENT) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1373 P.O. Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

OLIVER M. MANGLONA, ESQ. (F0489)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 285-3750
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Esco Anne Hocog Ulloa

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0225
NOTICE OF HEARING ON
VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS
OF ADMINISTRATION AND
APPOINTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATRIX; and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
EDWARD SONGAO HOCOG,
Deceased.
Judge: JOSEPH NORITA CAMACHO
Date: August 26, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS,
OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EDWARD SONGAO
HOCOG OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Esco Anne Hocog Ulloa has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Edward Songao Hocog, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Oliver M. Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Esco Anne Hocog Ulloa, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on August 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons or entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or his Estate are required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 28th day of August, 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 160Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Health care workers shouldn't make patients sick. Hospitals must mandate COVID vaccines

With COVID-19 cases skyrocketing and the delta variant raging across Florida, it seems like this should be obvious: All hospital workers should be vaccinated.

You're at your most vulnerable when you go to a hospital. You're seriously ill or need surgery. Maybe you're medically frail or have a compromised immune system from chemotherapy. You shouldn't have to wonder for one instant if the people you turn to for help at that moment—people who choose to work in the health care field, after all—have taken the single most effective step to prevent transmission of the deadly virus that has plagued us since 2020.

Have they been vaccinated? Why is that even a question?

But right now, you're not wrong to wonder. While more than 96% of doctors in a national survey in June said they had been vaccinated—that's according to the American Medical Association—the rate for other health workers is estimated to be much lower—too low, in fact. The overall vaccination rate among the approximately 13,000 workers at Jackson Health System, Miami-Dade County's public hospital system, is only about 60%. That means 40% of the people at work in the hospital aren't vaccinated. Across the country, long-term care and nursing home workers have been stuck at roughly that rate as well, for months.

Recently, though, hospitals and medical organizations have started to force the issue. On Monday, the Department of Veterans Affairs, which runs one of the largest health care systems in the country, announced that it would start requiring the vaccines for its front-line workers. On Tuesday, the Mayo Clinic, which has a hospital in Jacksonville, said it would do the same. A group of almost 60 health organizations just issued a joint statement that called on employers of health care and long-term care workers to require COVID-19 vaccines. The statement called it an ethical obligation to put patients first.

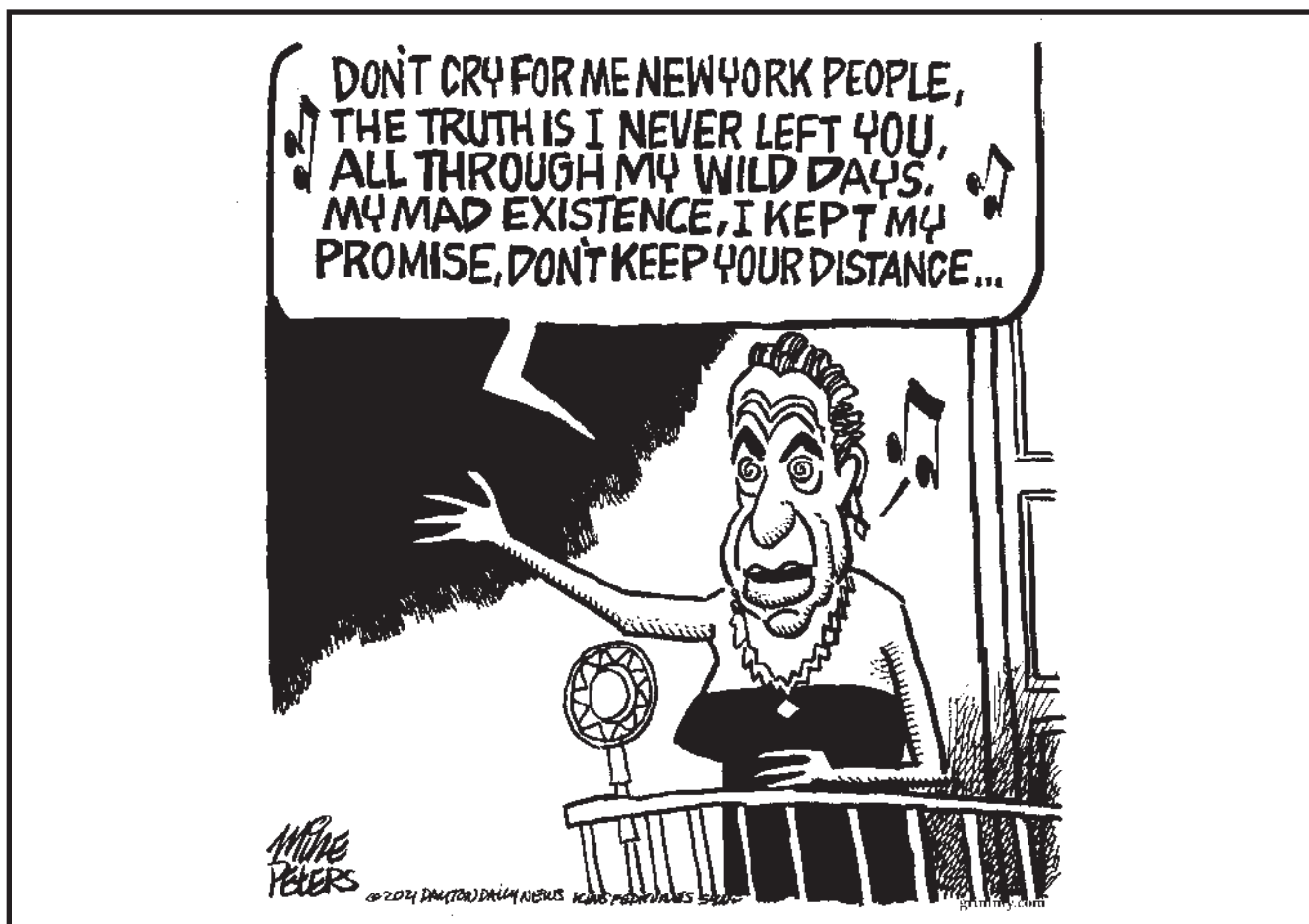
Is this a tipping point? We fervently hope so.

In Texas, the Houston Methodist system announced it would make COVID-19 vaccines a work requirement back on March 31—they say they were the first hospital system to do so—and initially it didn't go well. Staff members protested and 150 left. But in the end, 97% of the remaining staff complied. The patients there are safer because of Houston Methodist's common-sense action.

The U.S. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission has said the mandates are legal, though there could be exemptions for medical or religious reasons as there have been for flu vaccine requirements. A lawsuit filed by former Houston Methodist employees was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Lynn Hughes, who noted that "Methodist is trying to do their business of saving lives without giving them the COVID-19 virus. It is a choice made to keep staff, patients and their families safer."

We hope that ruling stiffens the resolve of hospitals in

See **HEALTH** on Next Page



The collateral damage from Cuomo's downfall

Andrew Cuomo, the departing governor of New York, announced his resignation Tuesday after months of defiance in the wake of sexual harassment allegations. A defiance, mind you, that was still present in his goodbye as he blamed "generational and cultural shifts" for his political demise, as if groping women were akin to cassette tapes and flip phones.

Nonetheless, in a couple of weeks the highest seat in New York State will be held by a woman for the first time, which would be a fitting end to an otherwise disheartening story.

Except this is not the end.

Not for Cuomo, not for the 11 women who bravely spoke out and not for the people trapped in the Cuomo vortex.

People like Roberta Kaplan, chairwoman of the anti-harassment group Time's Up, who resigned after a report from the state attorney general's office found she had reviewed a letter designed to discredit one of Cuomo's accusers.

And my friend Alphonso David, formerly counsel to Cuomo and now president of the Human Rights Campaign, who is under review by the organization's board because the attorney general's report accused him of advising the governor—after David left state service—on responses to these scandals.

"I was never aware of any allegations of sexual misconduct," he said in a recent statement to news outlets, "and no one ever reported them to me, as the report verifies."

Nonetheless David, Kaplan and others now find their credibility questioned because of their connection to Cuomo—whether or not they intended to serve as enablers, whether or not they knew about the accusations.

Let's not forget one important piece of collateral damage in the governor's political implosion: the reputation of his brother, Chris Cuomo, the CNN host—and the integrity of the industry in which he works.

Conflicts of interest and full disclosure matter, so first of all: Chris Cuomo, like David, is a friend of mine. Also, I worked for CNN on and off from 2009 to 2020, when I stopped appearing and writing after a contract agreement could not be reached.

When the report revealed that Chris participated in strategy meetings with his brother in response to parts of this scandal, I was shocked, although I also understood why Chris would have done that. It's his brother. But the concerns of conflicts of interest predate the report's revelation.

Last year's lovefest between the two, in which Chris repeatedly interviewed Andrew on CNN, was never hidden or subtle. It may have made great television, but it was not great journalism.

We were in the early stages of a pandemic, and the governor was a high-profile face of the government response. CNN certainly should have interviewed him. His brother should not have. This was a completely avoidable, self-inflicted wound that has

By **LZ GRANDERSON**

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



come back to haunt all involved.

Since November, much has been reported about the attempts of the former president—and his allies—to overturn the election. From questioning the validity of the results at rallies to his role in the Jan. 6 terrorist attack at the Capitol, there is no question that the actions of the former president threatened democracy itself.

But here's the rub: So do the actions of some news organizations. As much as democracy depends on accountability and good government, those are unlikely to thrive without trusted news outlets.

I do not fault Chris for wanting to help his brother, and I told him as much. The larger problem, however, arose because CNN lifted the ban on the two appearing together on air. That decision pulled more than just Chris into the governor's vortex; it pulled in Chris' colleagues as well.

Journalism is not an exact science, and objectivity doesn't automatically come with the job. Practitioners get close through checks and balances. When reporters make mistakes, editors correct them. When a commentator steps out of bounds, the standards department reminds us of the boundaries. These safeguards are in place to maintain public trust. But when the industry willfully conflates news with entertainment for ratings and clicks, we risk losing the public's trust.

It is the media that are called, and entrusted, to hold the powerful accountable. This role was deemed so important that it is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution. But modern American journalism can serve this function only if the electorate generally trusts mainstream news. That's impossible if we cross clear lines with stunts like presenting the Brothers Cuomo as a news segment.

There's no question it's better to have the injustices out in the open and the offending man out of office, for the sake of past victims and so there won't be any others. Society will pay a price for letting the situation get so out of hand, as people who have done good work are dragged down, and institutions that know better face consequences.

Of all the things trapped in the governor's vortex, journalistic integrity may be the hardest to pull out.

The president who wasn't there

Teddy Roosevelt fervently believed that the president of the United States should be at the center of the political universe, constantly attracting attention to himself. But he'd never met Joe Biden.

Biden is the most powerful man in the world and yet makes almost no impression.

No one, besides political and media professionals, wonders what Biden is going to say about something or considers him a figure of fascination. In fact, he barely rates.

His recent CNN town hall was a fizzle, averaging only 1.5 million viewers. Fox News easily beat it with its regular programming, and MSNBC had more viewers as well, dumping the president of the United States into third place in the cable-ratings race.

He's underperformed in more formal settings, too. Biden drew 27 million for his first address to a joint session of Congress, whereas Donald Trump drew 48 million.

The contrast with Trump's constant, impossible-to-ignore cocktail of provocation and political melodrama, naturally makes Biden's approach even more stark.

He's the Olympic badminton competition after a WWE match; he's elevator music after a heavy metal concert; he's the sparkler after a fireworks display.

Biden's presidency is, in this sense, practically premodern, almost hearkening back to the pre-mass-media days when presidents were neither seen nor heard.

Of course, this is in part a deliberate choice by the White

House, playing on the contrast with Trump and limiting Biden's exposure to avoid distractions (and gaffes). Being a notably low-voltage political figure worked for Biden in his comeback primary campaign and in the 2020 general election, so why not as president?

As a result, Biden strangely doesn't feel like the main event of the Biden years.

Assuming it arrives, the midterm backlash in 2022 won't be directly about Biden; instead, it will be driven by the Biden-adjacent issues of the border, crime, critical race theory and—if they reemerge in force—mask mandates and school closures.

Biden is the prime driver of only one of these issues, the crisis at the border that easily could have been avoided by keeping in place the policies the Trump administration had implemented to get control of the flow of migrants.

In other words, the culture war itself is likely to be the overwhelming issue in 2022, rather than the president.

This would be a marked departure from the midterm shellackings that Bill Clinton and Barack Obama got in 1994 and 2010, which were deeply personal rejections of both men (Clinton was viewed as a draft dodger unworthy of the office and Obama as a crypto-socialist hostile to American exceptionalism).

If no one on the right is enamored of Biden, very little energy is invested in opposing him as such.

Indeed, the idea that tends to generate the most interest and passion isn't that the president is assiduously working to destroy the American way of life so much as Biden—whose ver-

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



bal meanderings can be truly bizarre—isn't in charge at all.

Given the alternatives, this probably works in Biden's favor. He is pushing a truly radical spending agenda that would, if championed by a more in-your-face progressive president rather than someone who feels like a caretaker, surely be met with much fiercer resistance.

But there are risks to Biden, too. If his spending agenda founders, it's not clear what comes next. Even if the White House decides to try to "unleash" Biden, he is not well-suited to rallying the country or driving an agenda.

His low-intensity presidency may, as his advisers hope, help create a sense of a return to normality in Washington, but it easily could be consistent with a disturbing sense of drift. Usually, the dynamic of the presidency is if you don't seem to be in control of events, they are in control of you.

The test for Biden will be if, eventually, he has to be the dominant public figure in his own presidency.

Cuomo goes up the hill, comes tumbling down

A talk show producer was calling him sexy, his instructive, caring, humorous press conferences on COVID-19 had won him an Emmy, a publisher was paying him \$5 million for a book he wrote about his leadership excellence and many had him pegged as a future president.

Those were the days for Democratic New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who no doubt enhanced his extraordinary public standing through infantile arguing with then-President Donald Trump. The familial bias of his brother Chris, a commentator for super-progressive CNN, surely helped, too, as he occasionally mentioned the presidential possibility.

Not a few figured that was Cuomo's certain goal because he so adamantly denied it — and now he has resigned. He is not governor anymore, much less a presidential possibility, and his story tells us quite a bit not just about him. It tells us how a slick, smooth style, movie-star looks, a clever mouth and popular pronouncements can count for more in public popularity than accomplishments.

Cuomo deserved an Emmy for his entertaining and informative press conferences described in adulatory terms in a *Variety* magazine piece that also had the quote about his being sexy. But his chest-thumping book about his anti-virus genius encountered a rebuttal when it was learned that he had ordered virus-infected patients from hospitals into nursing homes where infections and

deaths could thereby go up.

At first, he said he made no such order, but he did. Then he said the Centers for Disease Control recommended it, even though the CDC said the homes had to have means of treatment and isolation, which many didn't. The endangerment became more of a problem when it turned out that Cuomo covered up the number of nursing home deaths — announced as 8,500 when the real number was about 15,000 — and got caught despite denials.

For all that, favorable state polls indicated he could run for governor again and win. He admitted some mistakes, ended the forced-admission policy and, who knows, kissed a young woman on her face.

Or more than one. Thanks to a load of work by New York's attorney general, Cuomo was reported to have engaged in bullying sexual behavior with 11 women. This time the state polls were unfavorable, calling for resignation, and, as impeachment became likely, he finally said OK.

Cuomo said that friendliness of an old school sort had been mistaken for assault. But this time around he was in far more trouble than when, as a supposed COVID-19 whiz, he did not stop New York from having the second highest virus death rate of any state in the nation on top of more than 9,000 virus-infected patients getting stuck in nursing homes where others could easily be infected. The *Onion*, a satirical news-

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



paper that prints insightful jokes instead of real news, came up with this fictional quote from Cuomo:

"Of course, I appreciate the concern about these women's allegations, but let's not forget that I made a concerted effort to cover up the deaths of 9,250 seniors who died because of my negligence—that's really what we should be talking about, right?"

Here was an issue of character on top of the issue of gubernatorial negligence, perhaps a case of the supposedly informed Cuomo being uninformed, of his doing more to prepare for TV shows than to actually save lives. That, and the time spent on his book for the sake of moolah and reputation, could have a lot to do with character, too, of course. The book sold well at first and then, well, kerplop, kind of like his career.

HEALTH

From Page 10

South Florida. And maybe it has. Trinity Health, which owns Holy Cross Health in Fort Lauderdale, announced July 8 that it would require all its workers to be vaccinated. About 75% already had been, but the medical system—with 117,000 employees across 22 states—said it was looking to "close the gap with this requirement."

Mandates are an option

At Jackson, about 87% of doctors are vaccinated, but only about 55% of nurses, CEO Carlos Migoya told the *Miami Herald* Thursday. Jackson launched a two-day, get-vaccinated campaign for staff at the end of the week to boost the percentage of vaccinated workers, which Migoya agrees must be drastically increased.

If it isn't? "All options are on the table," he said.

That might mean a mandate, the kind Houston Methodist imposed. Another possibility: vaccinate or submit to weekly COVID-19 tests.

Other South Florida hospitals should take note—and consider their responsibilities. If they're not going to lead the way on such a critical health care issue, who is?

Hospitals aren't alone in switching from carrots to sticks when it comes to vaccines. Mandates have been issued for New York

City workers and California state employees and health care workers. Two Florida counties—Leon and Orange—announced Wednesday that county workers must get the shots. In Miami, some restaurateurs are requiring vaccines of their employees. Big Tech has joined in: Google and Facebook will now require staffers to get vaccines in order to go back to their offices. The NFL is tying vaccines to financial penalties and forfeited games.

Heavy-handed? Not with so many lives at stake. Plus, gentle persuasion didn't work in the NFL, and it hasn't worked here in Florida. Just look at our new case numbers: more than 16,000 new cases on Tuesday, the seventh day in a row that the state racked up numbers over 12,000. Deaths are up, and the positivity rate is up—higher than 10% in Miami-Dade and more than 17% in the state as a whole. That indicates widespread community transmission. Again.

It's time for the health care industry to lead, without apology and without hesitation. Baptist Health said it does not have a mandate but is considering one. Martha Baker, the president of Jackson Health Care Union SEIU 1991, told the *Miami Herald* Editorial Board that the union's leadership board is in favor of a vaccine mandate at Jackson.

"I think this is more than an individual decision. I think this is a public-health issue," she said. "This is an issue that we need to get out front on."

Politics and confusion

Of course, there will be hurdles. There are unions to be bar-

gained with and politics to be reckoned with. Hospitals have been short-staffed through the pandemic, and mandates may mean losing a portion of their workforce. We live in a state that, in addition to being the source of a whopping 20% of new cases in the entire nation, is also home to a governor whose reelection campaign is hawking beer koozies that say "Don't Fauci my Florida"—a reference, of course, to Dr. Anthony Fauci. In this case, though, Gov. Ron DeSantis indicated back in May that he won't stand in the way of businesses imposing vaccine requirements.

It's true that the messaging by state and federal government has been muddled and has confused some people. The Food and Drug Administration's slowness in giving full approval to COVID-19 vaccines hasn't helped, either.

But the delta variant has forced our hand.

Migoya said Thursday that nearly all of the 217 COVID-19 patients at Jackson that day were unvaccinated. The handful that had been vaccinated were immunocompromised or had organ transplants.

Numbers like that should be enough to convince people that they need the vaccines, but, for too many people, it hasn't. It's time to try something new. It's time for Jackson and Baptist and all the other big hospitals—and tech companies and the NFL and businesses big and small—to lead the way so we can stop reliving this pandemic nightmare, over and over.



COME AND VISIT US TODAY! FREE ENTRANCE! MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9AM TO 4PM

The NMI Museum of History and Culture is an independent program from the Office of the Governor.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
Executive Director

Hafa Adai and Tirow! As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we are excited about the plans that are already being executed for the new fiscal year to upgrade and enhance our guest's experiences while touring our facility.

My staff (James Macaranas, Archie Ajoste, Wenny Haruo) have been busy with scheduled events. As a result of the efforts and hard work that Mr. James Macaranas (Building and

Facilities Manager) and Mr. Archie Ajoste (Administrative Assistant and Certified Museum Tour Guide) accomplished increasing the lighting on our grounds, we were able to schedule evening events to build more capacity and traffic to the museum. We welcome and invite non-profit organizations, schools, agencies to host events in our museum grounds.

Our successes, have been attributed to Governor Torres and his unwavering support of our plans to upgrade the museum experiences for guests and school children through digital and technological advancements. My staff and I, would like to also extend our many thanks to everyone who visited the museum and our appreciation to the organizations that hosted their events with us.



James I. Macaranas
Facilities & Building Manager



Archie P. Ajoste
Administrative Assistant/Certified Docent



Wenny Haruo
Office Assistant

NMI Museum Events & Projects

DECEMBER 2020



CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 2021



SAIPAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL TOUR



CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING TOUR



AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TOUR

MAY 2021



1ST LADY DIANN/2ND LADY WELLA/W.A.O. MOTHERS DAY: LET'S PAINT NIGHT (2 NIGHTS)



APRIL 2021



ANTI-SKID APPLIED TO MUSEUM SIDEWALKS/PATHWAYS



UPGRADE OF 300-WATT LED LIGHTS IN MUSEUM GROUNDS



ELASTOMERIC APPLIED TO MUSEUM ROOFTOP

JUNE 2021



DAOK ACADEMY TOUR (2 DAYS)



I.A.O.- INAFO'MOLEK MANHOBEN
MARIANAS



M.I.N.A. OCEAN CONSERVATION
CAMP



PRIDE AT THE PARK

JULY 2021



LIBERATION MOTORCADE



PSS PREP SUMMER PROGRAM(HMS/FMS/COVMS)



NMC TEACHER SUMMER PROGRAM



DYS SUMMER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
CAMP 1ST TOUR



MIND IN THE MAKING SUMMER
PROGRAM



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT: CRM INTERNS TOUR



NMC FACULTY PRESENTS: NIGHT
AT THE MUSEUM

AUGUST 2021



EMPTY VESSEL MINISTRY
SUMMER PROGRAM



AMELIA EARHART'S BIRTHDAY



NMTI SUMMER PROGRAM



DYS SUMMER YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
CAMP 2ND TOUR



WSR 4TH GRADE F-1 CLASS
SUMMER PROGRAM(1ST SCAVENGER
HUNT ACTIVITY)



MISS EARTH MARIA TERLAJE
PAINT NIGHT








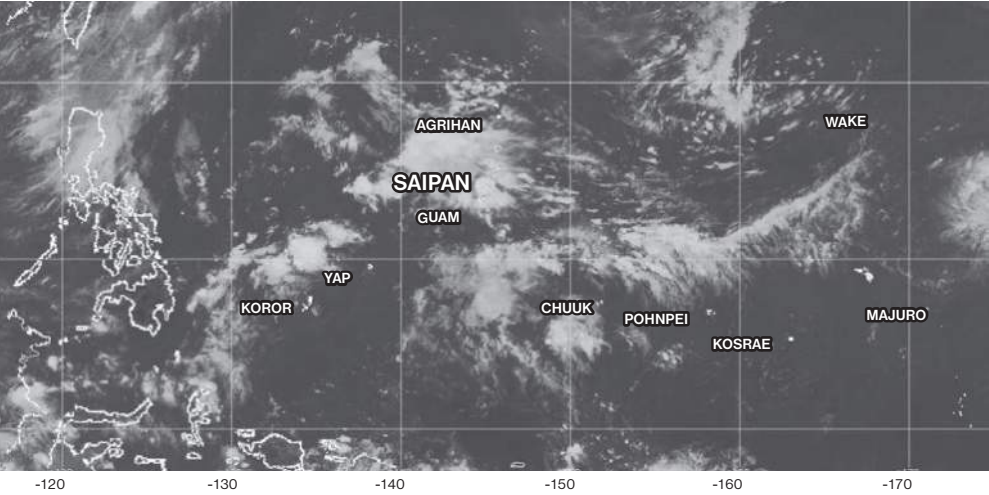
JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

**THE NMI MUSEUM
IS OPEN:**

Monday to Saturday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Telephone No.
664-2160

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
87°	77°	87°	76°	87°	78°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 12:50 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The afternoon hours have brought about a spike in convection across the Marianas as a surface trough works its way westward. Perhaps helping to increase convective instability just west of Guam, thick cirrus originating from widespread showers and thunderstorms about 200 miles WNW of the Marianas thinned out considerably in the late morning hours allowing for some midday island heating. These showers and thunderstorms are expected to persist through the afternoon hours and then subside this evening as the surface trough pushes farther west into the Philippine Sea. Upper-level conditions will still be supportive of isolated thunderstorms the next few days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	84 / 93 °F	
Palau	Partly sunny	80 / 85 °F	
Yap	Partly sunny	80 / 88 °F	
Chuuk	Broken clouds	79 / 88 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	79 / 86 °F	
Kosrae	Morning clouds	81 / 86 °F	
Majuro	Partly sunny	82 / 87 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:59 AM	10:12 PM	-
Saturday	10:54 AM	10:54 PM	-
Sunday	11:51 AM	11:40 PM	-
Monday	12:51 PM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:30 AM	1:54 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Passing showers	46 / 52 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	75 / 89 °F	
Hong Kong	Morning clouds	82 / 90 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	75 / 84 °F	
London	Sunny	60 / 73 °F	
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	65 / 79 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	80 / 91 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	38 / 58 °F	
Miami	Cloudy	81 / 88 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	65 / 83 °F	
Osaka	Cloudy	76 / 94 °F	
Paris	Morning clouds	56 / 72 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	77 / 90 °F	
Rome	Sunny	68 / 91 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	55 / 81 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	58 / 67 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	77 / 95 °F	
Tokyo	Morning clouds	76 / 89 °F	
Washington, DC	Sunny	77 / 92 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:07 AM	Low Tide	0.89	
10:29 AM	High Tide	1.89	
5:04 PM	Low Tide	0.48	
11:24 PM	High Tide	2.06	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

Business

New BOG website



Screenshot shows the homepage of Bank of Guam's new website.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam announced yesterday the launch of its new website, another major milestone in its yearlong transformative campaign called "The Start of Something New."

With a fresh new look, the bank's website—bankofguam.com—blends creativity and functionality, designed to reflect the bank's ongoing promise to build the best customer experiences, fusing its legacy of service with today's modern technology.

To complement the new look, the bank will also unveil a new look and feel on their online and mobile banking platforms in the coming days. The digital banking platforms will carry across the same unique twist on the Bank's brand elements introduced on its new website, updated and modernized to complement its digital identity and technology.

Optimized for a consistent and effortless experience across desktop and mobile devices, Bank of Guam customers can look forward to all the

features they rely on including some new and improved ones they are going to love.

Some of the new and improved features:

- Intuitively organized, easy to navigate pages

- Easy-to-find and easy-to-use buttons for Online Banking access and enrollment

- Ability to apply for a loan online with ease

- Online access to our Giving Form and philosophy so we can talk more about what matters most!

- A live chat widget, allowing you to chat with our team from any page of our site

- A refreshed Customer Support Portal, that allows you to search for answers to all your

Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam's chief experience officer, said the launch of the new website is a first step in building an integrated and modern experience for the bank's customers. "We know, the demand for greater accessibility and convenience is at an all-time high. This is why

we continue to invest in digital solutions that our customers not just demand but deserve and can grow to love," she said.

Joaquin Cook, Bank of Guam's president & chief executive officer, said: Last year, we saw this pandemic shake many of our homes and businesses. The ability to adapt quickly and pivot was key to being a good, responsible community partner. The ability to be flexible and offer solutions in the most uncertain of situations will be a lesson we carry with us into future investments and solutions. This is why today, we're proud to stand by our digital investments as we unveil a new corporate website and refreshed online and mobile banking platforms which are the gateway to even more exciting things to come!

Just last month, under "The Start of Something New," the bank announced the rebrand of their California Region to TASI Bank, a division of Bank of Guam. (PR)

and climate change.

Nancy Vanden Houten, an economist with Oxford Economics, said she is projecting a rise in the deficit this year to \$3.17 trillion, up slightly from last year's record of \$3.13 trillion deficit. Before last year, the largest deficit was a \$1.4 trillion imbalance in 2009, which came as the government was boosting support to get the country out of a deep recession following the 2008 financial crisis.

The government ran deficits above \$1 trillion for four years during that period. The CBO is projecting that deficits over the next decade will fall below \$1 trillion from 2023 through 2025 but then will start rising and stay above \$1 trillion annually through the rest of the decade, hitting \$1.86 trillion in 2031.

US budget deficit through July hit \$2.54T

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. budget deficit hit \$2.54 trillion for the first 10 months of this budget year, fed by spending to support the country after the pandemic-induced recession.

The figures keep the deficit on track to be second largest annual shortfall in U.S. history, behind only the most recent fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

Still, the Treasury Department reported Wednesday that the deficit through July is 9.5% lower than the same period a year ago.

That reflected improving tax collections as the economy recovers, and the winding down of many of the emergency support programs enacted after the pandemic struck in March of last year.

The deficit for the 2020 budget year hit an all-time

high of \$3.1 trillion after Congress passed trillions of dollars in support in the form of individual stimulus payments, enhanced unemployment benefits and support for small businesses.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that this year's deficit will narrow slightly to \$3 trillion. The CBO projects further improvement for the next budget year, which starts Oct. 1, expecting the deficit to fall to \$1.2 trillion.

However, that estimate does not take into account the impact of two huge spending bills now advancing in Congress: a roughly \$1 trillion bill to support traditional infrastructure programs such as highway construction, and a \$3.5 trillion measure backed only by Democrats to deal with such issues as poverty

Nation

Big win for \$1T infrastructure bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a robust vote after weeks of fits and starts, the Senate approved a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan for states coast to coast on Tuesday, as a rare coalition of Democrats and Republicans joined together to overcome skeptics and deliver a cornerstone of President Joe Biden's agenda.

"Today, we proved that democracy can still work," Biden declared at the White House, noting that the 69-30 vote included even Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

"We can still come together to do big things, important things, for the American people," Biden said.

The overwhelming tally provided fresh momentum for the first phase of Biden's "Build Back Better" priorities, now heading to the House. A sizable number of lawmakers showed they were willing to set aside partisan pressures, at least for a moment, eager to send billions to their states for

rebuilding roads, broadband internet, water pipes and the public works systems that underpin much of American life.

The vote also set the stage for a much more contentious fight over Biden's bigger \$3.5 trillion package that



Biden

is next up in the Senate—a more liberal undertaking of child care, elder care and other programs that is much more partisan and expected to draw only Democratic support. That debate is expected to extend into the fall.

With the Republicans lockstep against the next big package, many of them reached for the current compromise with the White House because they, too, wanted show they could deliver and the government could function.

"Today's kind of a good news, bad news day," said Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, one of the negotiators. "The good news is that today we really did something historic in the United States Senate; we moved out an infrastructure pack-

age, something that we have talked about doing for years." The bad news, she said, is what's coming next.

Infrastructure was once a mainstay of lawmaking, but the weeks-long slog to strike a compromise showed how hard it has become for Congress to tackle routine legislating, even on shared priorities.

Tuesday's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act started with a group of 10 senators who seized on Biden's campaign promise to draft a scaled-down version of his initial \$2.3 trillion proposal, one that could more broadly appeal to both parties in the narrowly divided Congress, especially the 50-50 Senate.

It swelled to a 2,700-page bill backed by the president and also business, labor and farm interests. Over time, it drew an expansive alliance of senators and a bipartisan group in the House.

In all, 19 Republicans joined all Democrats in voting for Senate passage. Vice President Kamala Harris, as presiding officer, announced the final tally.

ACROSS THE NATION

California man charged with spear-gun killing of children

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California surfing school owner was charged Wednesday with killing his two young children with a spear gun in Mexico because he believed they would become monsters, authorities said. Matthew Taylor Coleman, 40, of Santa Barbara is facing a federal charge of the foreign murder of U.S. nationals, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement. It wasn't immediately clear whether he had an attorney to speak for him. Coleman confessed to the FBI during an interview that he took his 2-year-old son and 10-month-old daughter to Rosarito, Mexico, where shot a "spear fishing gun" into their chests, according to an affidavit filed by an FBI agent with the criminal complaint. Coleman said that "he believed his children were going to grow into monsters so he had to kill them," according to the court document. A farmworker found the children's bodies on Monday at a ranch near Rosarito in Baja California, authorities there have said.

Wildfire bears down on Montana towns as West burns

LAME DEER, Mont. (AP)—A wildfire bore down on rural southeastern towns Thursday as continuing hot, dry weather throughout the West drove flames through more than a dozen states. Several thousand people remained under evacuation orders as the Richard Spring Fire advanced toward the sparsely-populated Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Meanwhile, the Dixie Fire—which started July 13 and is the largest wildfire burning in the nation—threatened a dozen small communities in the northern Sierra Nevada even though its southern end was mostly corralled

by fire lines. The blaze had burned over 780 square miles (over 2,000 square kilometers), destroyed some 550 homes and nearly obliterated the town of Greenville. It was 30% contained. On Wednesday, the Montana fire displayed extreme behavior and had grown by tens of thousands of acres, according to the National Inter-agency Fire Center. The blaze, which was only 15% surrounded, began Sunday and powerful gusts caused it to explode across more than 230 square miles (600 square kilometers).

California requires vaccines, tests for teachers and staff

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California will become the first state in the nation to require all teachers and school staff to get vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing, as schools return from summer break amid growing concerns about the highly contagious delta variant, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Wednesday. The new policy applies to both public and private schools and will affect more than 800,000 employees, including about 320,000 public school teachers and a host of support staff such as cafeteria workers and cleaners, the state Department of Public Health said. It will also apply to school volunteers. Newsom announced the new policy at a San Francisco Bay Area school that reopened earlier this week to in-person classes. Many California schools are back in session, with others starting in the coming weeks. "We think this is the right thing to do, and we think this is a sustainable way to keeping our schools open and to address the number one anxiety that parents like myself have for young children," said Newsom, who is a father of four. "That is knowing that the schools are doing everything in their power to keep our kids safe."

Asia

New Zealand plans to start reopening borders early next year

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand, which has completely stamped out the coronavirus, plans to cautiously reopen its borders to international travelers early next year, the government said Thursday.

Officials also said they would delay second shots of the Pfizer vaccine in order to speed up first shots to protect more people as the threat of the delta variant grows.

New Zealand's success in erasing the coronavirus has allowed life to return almost to normal. The South Pacific nation of 5 million people has reported just 26 deaths since the pandemic began.

That's been achieved in part by closing borders to those who aren't residents or citizens.

But many question whether its feasible for New Zealand to maintain a zero-tolerance approach to the virus once international travel resumes.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the government planned to follow the advice of experts and maintain the elimination strategy.

"While the pandemic continues to rage overseas, and

the virus continues to change and mutate, the best thing we can do is lock in the gains achieved to date while keeping our options open," she said.

Ardern said the borders would not reopen until after New Zealand's vaccine rollout was completed at the end of the year. The rollout has been much slower than in most developed nations, although is beginning to accelerate.

Ardern said that from the first quarter of next year, the country would begin allowing travelers to arrive on a care-

fully managed basis.

Fully vaccinated travelers from low-risk countries would not be required to quarantine, she said. Those arriving from medium-risk countries would need to complete some form of quarantine. And those arriving from high-risk countries, or who were unvaccinated, would need to stay 14 days in a quarantine hotel run by the military, Ardern said.

The government did not provide a ranking of countries by risk, saying it could change quickly.

Ardern said a new trial would begin in October that would allow some business travelers to quarantine at home rather than in military-run hotels as a test of the new system it planned to introduce for medium-risk countries next year.

Ardern also announced it was increasing the standard time scheduled between Pfizer vaccine doses from three weeks to six weeks. She said the initial groups targeted for the vaccine—border workers and older people—had already been fully vaccinated.



Flanked by lawmakers, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern delivers a speech on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, in Wellington, New Zealand.

10 dead, dozens feared trapped by landslide in north India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A large landslide struck a bus and several other vehicles traveling on a highway in the mountains of northern India on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and trapping dozens of others, officials said.

Television images showed boulders and rocks rolling down the hillside before crashing into vehicles on the highway in Himachal Pradesh state.

Fourteen people were rescued, said Vivek Kumar Pandey, a spokesman for a

paramilitary force involved in the search.

A bus, a truck and two cars were smashed in the landslide in Kinnaur district, police said. The number of passengers in the bus wasn't immediately known.

Eight bodies were found in a sports utility vehicle, a police statement said.

Police said they found the bodies of a driver and another person in the truck, which rolled down to a riverbank.

Those rescued have been taken to hospitals but are not seriously injured, district administrator Abid Hussain Sadiq said.

ing up with the weather improving in the area.

Heavy rain has caused several landslides in Himachal Pradesh state over the past few weeks. The region is 600 kilometers (375 miles) north of New Delhi.

Disasters caused by landslides and flooding are common in India during the June-September monsoon season.

In August, about 150 people were killed by landslides and flooding triggered by monsoon rains in western India's Maharashtra state.

More than 100 rescuers, including police and paramilitary personnel, were deployed to clear the rubble using four earth removers, police said in a statement. Ten ambulances waited to carry the injured to hospitals.

The rescue work was pick-

Experts say heavy rainfall along India's western coast is in line with how rainfall patterns have changed in past years due to climate change, as the warming Arabian Sea drives more cyclones and more intense rainfall over short periods of time.

Sri Lanka files charges against 25 Easter bombing suspects

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka has filed 23,270 charges against 25 people in connection with the 2019 Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks on churches and hotels that killed 269 people, the president's office said Wednesday.

The charges filed Tuesday under the country's anti-terrorism law include conspiring to murder, aiding and abetting, collecting arms and ammunition, and attempted murder, it said.

The attorney general also asked the chief justice to appoint a special three-member high court bench to hear the cases speedily, it said in a statement.

Two local Muslim groups that had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group were blamed for the six near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on April 21, 2019. The blasts targeted three churches and three hotels.

Another suicide bomber who had entered a fourth hotel left without setting off his

bomb, but later committed suicide by detonating his explosives at a different location.

Friction and a communication breakdown between then-President Maithripala Sirisena and then-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe were blamed for the government's failure to act on near-specific foreign intelligence warnings ahead of the attacks. That led to the election of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa later in 2019 on a platform of national security.

Rajapaksa was a former army officer and a defense official who had played a decisive role in defeating Tamil Tiger rebels and ending a 26-year civil war.

The head of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, has repeatedly charged that the investigation into the blasts was not being conducted properly. He said he believes the real conspirators are still at large and has accused authorities of trying to shield the masterminds.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Tita Travilla Gabredo

In her wew life, she will be greeted at the gates of heaven by her

Father:

Mother:

Brothers:

Extended Family:

†Manuel S. Gabrido

†Gracia T. Gabrido

†Henry T. Gabrido & Dante T. Gabrido

†Magdalena M. Cabrera & Marie Elaine Cabrera

Her memory will live on in the hearts and the lives of her:

Children:

Grand Children:

Siblings & In-laws:

Caretaker and Friend:

Christopher G. Cabrera

Marlon Dean G. Cabrera & Catherine Acera-Cabrera

Caleb Matthew Acera-Cabrera

Calen Marcel Acera-Cabrera

Cayli Mae Acera-Cabrera

Delma G. & Armando Cabrera and Family

Nenita G. & Tony Olimpo and Family

Ronnie T. And Aida Gabrido and Family.

Grace De Guia Enriquez

She is additionally survived by numerous family members (Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews, Nieces & Godchildren)

She will be greatly missed by her Marianas High School Dolphin family & Carmen Safeway Meitetsu family). Special acknowledgement to CHCC Oncology Department: Dr. Peter Brett, Jonathan Holloway, Alex Johanson, Mary Lou Stevens, Tasia S. Bocago, Nurses: Salome Castro, Angela Figueroa, Porsha Palacios, Maria Priest, Mary Quinn Rozkydal

On Saturday August 14th, 2021, her body will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 6:45am to San Antonio Parish. Last respects and viewing will be between 7:30am-8:30am. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Your Thoughts, Presence And Especially Your Prayers Are Greatly Appreciated

Thank You, Si Yurus Maase and Maraming Salamat Po

THE FAMILY

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Greek wildfires: Multinational force works to tame flare-ups

PEFKI, Greece (AP)—Hundreds of firefighters from across Europe and the Mideast worked alongside their Greek colleagues in rugged terrain Wednesday, trying to contain flareups of the huge wildfires that have ravaged Greece's forests for a week, destroying homes and forcing thousands to evacuate. The spread of the blazes has been largely halted, officials said, but fronts still burned on the large island of Evia and in Greece's southern Peloponnese region, where several homes were on fire, according to state ERT TV. The fires broke out last week after Greece had just experienced its most protracted heatwave since 1987, leaving its forests tinder-dry. Other nearby nations such as Turkey and Italy faced similar searing temperatures and quickly spreading fires, while Spain and Portugal were on alert Wednesday for wildfires amid a heat wave forecast to last through Monday. At the southern side of the Mediterranean Sea, wildfires in Algeria's mountains have killed 65 people, including 28 soldiers sent in to help, and three days of national mourning begin Thursday.

Amnesty reports widespread rapes 'with impunity' in Tigray

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Dozens of women have described shocking sexual assaults by Ethiopian soldiers and allied forces in the country's Tigray conflict, says an Amnesty International report published Wednesday, and its researcher calls it striking how the perpetrators appeared to act without fear of punishment from their commanders. "All of these forces from the very beginning, everywhere, and for a long period of time felt it was perfectly OK with them to perpetrate these crimes because they clearly felt they could do so with impunity, nothing holding them back," Donatella Rovera told The Associated Press. She would not speculate on whether any leader gave the signal to rape, which the report says was intended to humiliate both the women and their Tigrayan ethnic group. In her years of work investigating atrocities around the world, these are some of the worst, Rovera said. More than 1,200 cases of sexual violence were documented by health centers in Tigray between February and April

alone, Amnesty said. No one knows the real toll during the nine-month conflict, as most of the health facilities across the region of 6 million people were looted or destroyed.

Russia: Black Sea oil spill much bigger than first thought

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian prosecutors on Wednesday opened a criminal probe into an oil spill off the country's Black Sea coast that appeared to be far bigger than initially expected and left traces of pollution along the scenic coastline. The spill occurred over the weekend at the oil terminal in Yuzhnaya Ozereyevka near the port of Novorossiysk that belongs to the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, which pumps crude from Kazakhstan. The oil spilled while being pumped into the Minerva Symphony tanker, which sails under the Greek flag. Authorities initially estimated that the spill covered only about 200 square meters (2,153 square feet), but Russian scientists said Wednesday after studying satellite images that it actually covered nearly 80 square kilometers (nearly 31 square miles). WWF Russia has estimated that about 100 metric tons of oil have spilled into the sea. The Prosecutor General's office has opened a criminal probe on charges of environmental pollution and said it would seek damages.

Germany to provide \$35 billion in aid for flood-hit regions

BERLIN (AP)—The German government agreed Tuesday to provide 30 billion euros (\$35 billion) to help rebuild regions hit by devastating floods last month. Chancellor Angela Merkel and the heads of Germany's 16 states approved the state flood aid package, which still needs parliament's endorsement. "This is significantly more than we had for previous floods," Merkel told reporters in Berlin. More than 180 people died in Germany and hundreds more were injured in the July 14-15 floods, which also claimed lives in neighboring Belgium. Heavy rainfall turned small streams into raging torrents, sweeping away houses, bridges and cars. A United Nations science panel released a report this week predicting that such extreme weather events will become more frequent as the planet heats up further. The cost of the German aid package—agreed just weeks before the country's national election on Sept. 26—will be shared more or less evenly by the federal government and states, with the latter's payments spread

over 30 years.

Kremlin critic Navalny slapped with new criminal charges

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian authorities have levied new criminal charges against imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny, part of a government crackdown on the corruption fighter and his beleaguered team ahead of Russia's upcoming parliamentary election. Russia's Investigative Committee said Wednesday it has charged Navalny

with creating a non-profit organization that infringes on people's rights, a criminal offense punishable by up to three years in prison. Officials alleged that Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption, which was launched 10 years ago and has since published dozens of widely watched videos exposing the alleged corruption of senior government officials, incited Russians "to perform unlawful actions" by urging them to join unauthorized protests in January. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric,

asked about the new charge, reiterated Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' "concern that he's repeated on a number of times across the world where we are seeing a shrinking of space for civil society."

Tourist helicopter crashes in Russian crater lake; 8 missing

MOSCOW (AP)—A helicopter carrying tourists plunged into a deep volcanic crater lake on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's far east Thursday, and rescuers were search-

ing in the lake for up to eight people missing, officials said. At least eight others reportedly survived. The helicopter crashed in the Kronotsky nature reserve, and the regional administration said workers were searching for survivors in Kurile Lake, which was formed in a volcano caldera and crater. Russia's Emergencies Ministry said 13 tourists and three crew members were aboard the Mi-8 helicopter and eight people survived, according to the state RIA Novosti news agency.

FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS

Hedwig Henry
Atalig Hofschneider

LOVINGLY CALLED AS "DING BOY"

Faith, hope and love are the virtues of our Christian lives, and we do our utmost best to live them daily. As we learn to cope with the absence of our Dearly Beloved **HEDWIG HENRY ATALIG HOFSCHNEIDER**, we, his family, are sincerely and forever grateful to our many families and friends from near and far who stood by us, and continue to stand by us, through this most difficult time.

While the pain of loss is hard to endure, the outpouring of support and prayers, and most of all the unconditional love which embraced us, has given us strength and comfort in the knowledge that our **Dearly Beloved** is now resting peacefully in God's care.

Your presence at the daily masses of intention and most especially on his funeral day deeply touched our hearts. We are thankful to Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, DD and members of the clergy, especially Father Arman and Father Melvin, for your prayers, comforting words and services. To Deacon Stan Benavente and Deacon Rosiky Camacho and the altar servers, thank you for always serving us. We are very much grateful to the Thaddeus Choir, the Northern Marianas College Choir, Senator Jude Hofschneider and family, and members of the Neocatechumenate for uplifting our spirits with their voices and music.

A special thanks to Young Gunz Marianas for the solemn escort to Mount Carmel Cathedral; to the CNMI Youth Congress for the beautiful resolution; to the Lions Club for their thoughtful presentation; and to Northern Marianas College, and most especially the Project PROA team, for the heartwarming pictures, memorial service and wreath. A special thanks also to the other groups that came together to celebrate mass, including the former students of Marianas Baptist Academy, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the Rotary Club of Saipan, and the Pacific Century Fellows. We are also grateful to the members of Congress, and especially the Saipan Mayor's Office, who generously donated and provided assistance over the past few weeks, and to Blossoms for their beautiful floral arrangements and coordination of services. To our family members and friends who are too numerous to name individually, we know and appreciate all you have done, and we hold each and every one of you in our hearts with the deepest gratitude.

To one and all, dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and as we part our ways, we fervently pray that God's graces and blessings will forever be upon us all, and may each day bring us closer to God in thankfulness for all that we are blessed with, and may we live each day for His glory.

Emerenciana (Emy), Velma, Ricky, Jaden and Jason, Estelle, Delia, Ramon and family



Off The Wall

Piece of Prince Charles, Diana's wedding cake is sold for \$2,565

LONDON (AP)—A royal fan has bought a slice of Prince Charles and Princess Diana's wedding cake for 1,850 pounds (\$2,565) at auction, more than 40 years after the couple tied the knot.

The large piece of cake icing and marzipan base features a detailed, sugared design of the royal coat of arms in gold, red, blue and silver. It was given to Moya Smith, a royal staffer, who preserved it with cling film and dated it July 29, 1981.

After a flurry of bidding from across the world the cake piece was sold Wednesday to buyer Gerry Layton for several times over its estimated price of 300 to 500 pounds.

Layton, who described himself as a monarchist, said he would add the cake piece to his collection and benefit charities.



The tin containing plastic wrapped icing of a slice of cake from one of the 23 official wedding cakes made for the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on Wednesday July 29, 1981.

"I thought I would like to add it to my estate, which will be going to charity after my death," he said. "I also thought that I could put it up as a raffle prize with some of the money going to Centrepont, which Princess Di

was patron of."

Chris Albury, of Dominic Winter Auctioneers, said he was amazed at the number of bidders who were interested. Most of the inquiries came from the U.K., U.S. and the Middle East, he said.

China elephants may be heading home

BEIJING (AP)—An elephant herd that fascinated locals and people around the world by making a yearlong journey into urbanized southwest China, raiding farms and even a retirement home for food, appears finally to be headed home.

Local authorities have deployed trucks, workers and drones to monitor the elephants, evacuated roads for them to pass safely and used food to steer them away from populated areas. Despite their entrance into villages and a close approach to the Yunnan provincial capital of Kunming, no animals or humans have been injured.

The 14 Asian elephants of various sizes and ages were guided across the Yuanjiang river in Yunnan on Sunday night and a path is being opened for them to return to the nature reserve where they lived in the Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture.

The elephants left the reserve more than a year ago for unknown reasons and roamed more than 500 kilometers (300 miles) north. After reaching the outskirts of Kunming, a center for business and tourism, they turned south again, but still are far from the reserve.

One male that separated from the herd was subsequently tranquilized and returned to the reserve.

Asian elephants are among the most highly protected animals in China and their population has grown to around 300, even while their habitat has shrunk because of expand-

ed farming and urban growth.

As of Sunday night, the herd was still in Yuanjiang County, approximately 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the reserve.

Zoo's newborn giraffe stands 6 feet tall

MENDON, Mass. (AP)—The Southwick Zoo's newest addition is a pretty big baby.

Dolly the giraffe was born two weeks ago, and at 6 feet tall and 150 pounds, she's the largest of her species ever to be born in the history of the Mendon zoo.

The zoo says Dolly is be-

However, the National Forestry and Grassland Administration said the animals were in a "suitable habitat" after crossing the river.

ing fed with a bottle because her mother was unable to produce her own milk. She made her public debut during Earth Awareness Day festivities on Saturday.

Dr. Peter Brewer, the zoo's veterinarian, said Dolly won't be reintroduced to her mother for another month.



This recent photo provided by the Southwick's Zoo shows newborn giraffe "Dolly" with Luke Weatherhead, curator at the zoo, in Mendon, Mass.

Science & Technology

Apply now to pretend to live on Mars for one year

Want to find your inner Matt Damon and spend a year pretending you are isolated on Mars? NASA has a job for you.

To prepare for eventually sending astronauts to Mars, NASA began taking applications Friday for four people to live for a year in Mars Dune Alpha. That's a 1,700-square-foot Martian habitat, created by a 3D-printer, and inside a building at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The paid volunteers will work a simulated Martian exploration mission complete with spacewalks, limited communications back home, restricted food and resources and equipment failures.

NASA is planning three of these experiments with the first one starting in the fall next year. Food will all

be ready-to-eat space food and at the moment there are no windows planned. Some plants will be grown, but not potatoes like in the movie "The Martian." Damon played stranded astronaut Mark Watney, who survived on spuds.

"We want to understand how humans perform in them," said lead scientist Grace Douglas. "We are looking at Mars realistic situations."

The application process opened Friday and they're not seeking just anybody. The requirements are strict, including a master's degree in a science, engineering or math field or pilot experience. Only American citizens or permanent U.S. residents are eligible. Applicants have to be between 30 and 55, in

good physical health with no dietary issues and not prone to motion sickness.

That shows NASA is looking for people who are close to astronauts, said former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield. And, he said, that's a good thing because it is a better experiment if the participants are more similar to the people who will really go to Mars. Past Russian efforts at a pretend Mars mission called Mars 500 didn't end well partly because the people were too much like everyday people, he said.

For the right person this could be great, said Hadfield, who spent five months in orbit in 2013 at the International Space Station, where he played guitar and sang a cover video of David Bowie's "Space Oddity."

Higher but still slim odds of asteroid hitting Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The good news is that scientists have a better handle on asteroid Bennu's whereabouts for the next 200 years. The bad news is that the space rock has a slightly greater chance of clobbering Earth than previously thought.

But don't be alarmed: Scientists reported Wednesday that the odds are still quite low that Bennu will hit us in the next century.

"We shouldn't be worried about it too much," said Davide Farnocchia, a scientist with NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who served as the study's lead author.

While the odds of a strike have risen from 1-in-2,700

to 1-in-1,750 over the next century or two, scientists now have a much better idea of Bennu's path thanks to NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft, according to Farnocchia.

"So I think that overall, the situation has improved," he told reporters.

The spacecraft is headed back to Earth on a long, round-about loop after collecting samples from the large, spinning rubble pile of an asteroid, considered one of the two most hazardous known asteroids in our solar system. The samples are due here in 2023.

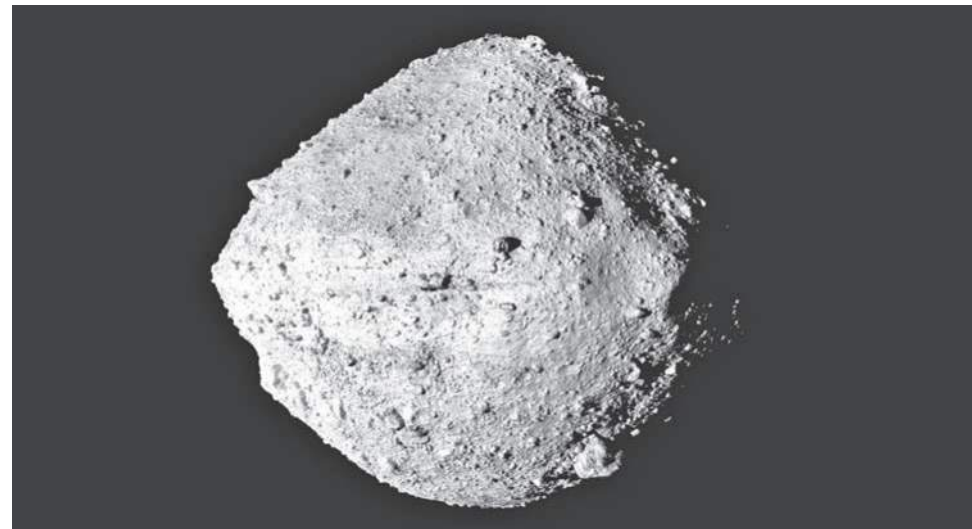
Before Osiris-Rex arrived at Bennu in 2018, telescopes provided solid insight into the asteroid, about one-third of a mile (one-half kilometer) in diameter. The spacecraft col-

lected enough data over 2 1/2 years to help scientists better predict the asteroid's orbital path well into the future.

Their findings—published in the journal *Icarus*—should also help in charting the course of other asteroids and give Earth a better fighting chance if and when another hazardous space rock heads our way.

Before Osiris-Rex arrived on the scene, scientists put the odds of Bennu hitting Earth through the year 2200 at 1-in-2,700. Now it's 1-in-1,750 through the year 2300. The single most menacing day is Sept. 24, 2182.

Bennu will have a close encounter with Earth in 2135 when it passes within half the distance of the moon. Earth's gravity could tweak its future path and put it on a collision course with Earth in the 2200s—less likely now based on Osiris-Rex observations.



This undated image made available by NASA shows the asteroid Bennu from the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft.

NASA/GODDARD/UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA/CSA/YORK/MDA

Life & Style

‘Jeopardy!’ producer Richards named host; role for Bialik

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After weeks of guest hosts on “Jeopardy!” that included celebrities from TV, sports and journalism, the daily syndicated quiz show chose its executive producer, Mike Richards, as the successor to beloved host Alex Trebek.

But after fan backlash to a selection process that recently turned messy, producer Sony split the pie by naming another guest host, actor Mayim Bialik, as emcee for “Jeopardy!” prime-time and spinoff series, including a new college championship.

In a nod to “Jeopardy!” devotees, longest winning-streak champion Ken Jennings will return as a consulting producer.

Richards will retain executive producing duties for “Jeopardy!” and “Wheel of Fortune,” Sony Pictures Television said in a statement Wednesday. The studio also appeared to deflect the idea that

it was bowing to the dismay that some fans expressed when word leaked last week that Richards would be the pick.

“We knew early on that we wanted to divide the hosting responsibilities and it became very clear that Mike and Mayim were the undeniable choices. They were both at the top of our research and analysis,” said Ravi Ahuja, chairman of Global Television Studios for Sony Pictures. “We took this decision incredibly seriously.”

As a guest host, Ahuja said Richards was “at ease behind the podium and a double threat as producer and host. Mayim has a wonderful energy, an innate sense of the game, and an authentic curiosity that naturally represents the ‘Jeopardy!’ brand.”

Richards was the second of the temp hosts who filled the void left by Trebek’s death, with “Jeopardy!” champs Jennings and Buzzy Cohen,

actors Bialik and LeVar Burton, NFL player Aaron Rodgers and TV journalists among the others.

The studio didn’t break the game-show mold by choosing Richards. White male hosts

have long been the convention, with a few women (among them Meredith Vieira, Jane Lynch, Leslie Jones) and a larger contingent of Black men (Wayne Brady, Steve Harvey, Anthony Anderson) making inroads in recent years.

While Richards proved an excellent host, a “fantastic opportunity for radical change has been lost,” said Deepak Sarma, a Case Western Reserve University professor and Netflix cultural consultant. For the marginalized, Sony’s decision confirms

suspensions that “penetrating some privileged worlds is impossible,” Sarma said.

Richards has an extensive, Emmy Award-winning game show resume. He was the executive producer of “The Price is Right” and “Let’s Make a Deal” for more than a decade and produced the 2020 revival of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.” His on-camera experience includes hosting “The Pyramid” and “Beauty and the Geek,” a reality show.

He joined “Jeopardy!” as the replacement for retiring executive producer Harry Friedman starting with the 2020-21 season, and was in the job for only a few months when Trebek, 80, died last November of pancreatic cancer. Trebek was host for 37 seasons.



Bialik



Richards

Justin Bieber leads nominees for 2021 MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber leads this year’s list of nominees at the 2021 MTV Video Music Awards, followed closely by Megan Thee Stallion, Billie Eilish, BTS, Doja Cat, Drake, Giveon, Lil Nas X and first-time nominee Olivia Rodrigo.

Bieber has seven nods, including video of the year and best direction for “POPSTAR,” artist of the year, best cinematography for “Holy” and best pop song, best editing and best collaboration for “Peaches.”

Megan Thee Stallion is right behind with six nominations, mostly from her hit song “WAP,” triggering nods for

video of the year, artist of the year, best collaboration and best hip-hop song. She also was nominated for a second time in the best hip-hop song category for her work on Lil Baby’s “On Me (The Remix).”

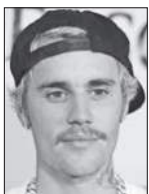
Eilish, BTS, Doja Cat, Drake, Giveon, Lil Nas X and Rodrigo each have five nominations. Bieber and Megan Thee Stallion will compete with Ariana Grande, Doja Cat, Olivia Rodrigo and Taylor Swift for artist of the year.

The video of the year category is filled by “WAP” by Cardi B featuring Megan

Thee Stallion; “POPSTAR” by DJ Khaled featuring Drake and Bieber; “Kiss Me More” by Doja Cat featuring SZA; Ed Sheeran’s “Bad Habits”; Lil Nas X’s “MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name)”; and The Weeknd’s “Save Your Tears.”

“WAP” is also up for song of the year, alongside “Mood” by 24kGoldn featuring iann dior; “Leave The Door Open” by Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak and Silk Sonic; “Dynamite” by BTS; Dua Lipa’s “Levitating” and Rodrigo’s “drivers license.”

The 2021 VMAs will return



Bieber

to New York City, airing from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn on Sept. 12. The show will simulcast across CMT, Comedy Central, Logo, MTV2, Nickelodeon, Paramount Network, Pop, TV Land, VH1 and The CW Network.

The best new artist nominees are: 24kGoldn, Giveon, The Kid LAROI, Olivia Rodrigo, Polo G and Saweetie. Best rock song nominees are Evanescence’s “Use My Voice,” Foo Fighters’ “Shame Shame,” John Mayer’s “Last Train Home,” The Killers’ “My Own Soul’s Warning,” Kings Of Leon’s “The Bandit” and Lenny Kravitz’s “Raise Vibration.”

“No matter who they picked some of the viewers were going to be unhappy, because it wasn’t Alex Trebek,” said media consultant Bill Carroll.

Jennings, who holds the record for most regular-game winnings with \$2.52 million and the longest winning-streak, 74 games, had been considered a frontrunner, along with Cohen and Bialik (“The Big Bang Theory”). Burton had his own chorus of supporters, including the petitioners whom he credits with getting him on the show last month.

Sony had been handling the transition gracefully: The show regularly saluted Trebek’s legacy, made charitable donations in his memory and framed the succession of guest hosts as a chance for

viewers to adapt to change and, just maybe, have a hand in the choice.

In interviews, Richards portrayed himself as a relative bystander in the process, one who had stepped in as guest host only when needed.

When Variety reported last week that he was close to signing a deal, fans and observers questioned whether the supposed audition and selection process was a stunt, with the conclusion foregone. They also expressed doubt that Richards was right for the job.

There were other candidates with the gravitas and resume that “Jeopardy!” and its viewers deserve, said Andy Saunders, a longtime viewer and administrator for The Jeopardy! Fan website.

Durst says he lied to police about night wife disappeared

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Real estate heir Robert Durst testified Wednesday that he has changed his mind many times about whether he actually saw his wife step onto a commuter train for Manhattan on the night she disappeared in 1982, and said he lied to police when he told them he later spoke to her on the phone.

“Everyone has asked me that question and I have changed my mind maybe a dozen times,” Durst said under questioning from his attorney Dick DeGuerin at his Los Angeles murder trial. “Did I actually see Kathie walk through the doors and onto the train? The answer is no. But there is no place else to go.”

Durst, on trial for the 2000 killing of his best friend Su-

san Berman, has never been charged in the disappearance of Kathie Durst, who was later declared legally dead. But prosecutors have been allowed to present evidence that Durst killed his wife and then killed Berman when she was about to tell authorities what she knew.

He testified that he never saw or heard from his wife again after watching her step onto the train platform in the New York hamlet of Katonah near their home on Jan. 31, 1982. But days later he told a detective investigating her disappearance that he had called her and spoken to her at their apartment in Manhattan, where she had gone because she had medical school in the Bronx the following morning.

Retirement hasn’t changed couple’s long-term routine

DEAR ABBY: My husband retired a few months ago. I was a stay-at-home mom for most of our married life but have worked part time for several years. I always took care of all the household chores because he supported us financially.

Now he’s retired, and nothing has changed. I’m still doing all the cooking, cleaning, laundry, taking care of the business matters and working part time. Although I have always done whatever it takes to keep the peace, I am becoming increasingly resentful. I don’t know how to break this pattern. I’ve never had the nerve to speak up and express my anger or frustration for fear of getting into a huge fight. Can you give me any advice to help me get out of this trap I’ve built for myself?

STUCK IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STUCK: Your husband isn’t a mind reader. Ending your silence is the way out of the “trap.” It is what has given him license. If necessary, HAVE that “huge fight.” It may be the answer to a more equitable sharing of responsibilities. But if it isn’t, then it’s time for counseling—to not only help you better communicate, but also, if necessary, mediate.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced less than a year, and

while I wasn’t expecting to rush into a relationship, I have met someone I really like, and he treats me so well. The problem is I haven’t yet told my children, and while speaking with my 13-year-old son, he told me he would run away if I was ever with anyone except his dad. He also said he didn’t care if I was happy or not. I don’t want to hurt—or worse, lose—my son. He refuses to talk to a counselor. How do I move on and get my son to accept this situation?

MOVING FORWARD IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR MOVING FORWARD: Do you really intend to allow a 13-year-old to dictate how you live the rest of your life? Because he refuses to talk with a counselor doesn’t mean you shouldn’t do it for help in strengthening your backbone. Your son’s feelings may change once his father starts having romantic relationships—if he hasn’t already. Nowhere in your letter did you mention that the person you are seeing has asked for a permanent commitment, so you have lots of time. Live your life. Continue to explore where things are going. When your son is older and his hormones kick in, he may mellow.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What does an invited guest do when their hosts

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



get into one or more verbal screaming fights in front of them? Leave the room? Exit completely? I was raised that folks use “company manners” when guests were present.

BAFFLED IN INDIANA

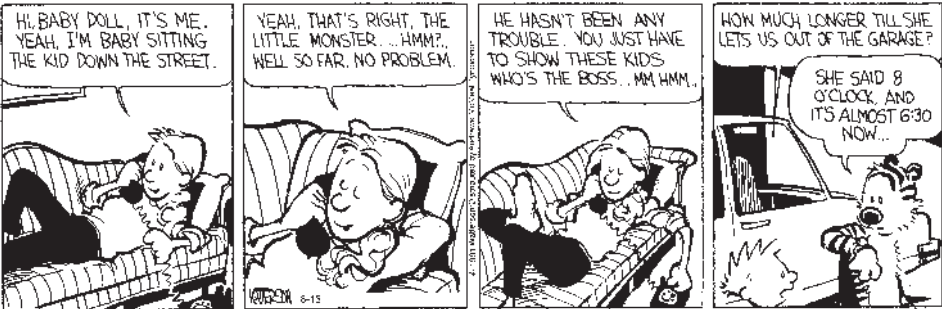
DEAR BAFFLED: If the hosts’ behavior makes you uncomfortable, the prudent thing would be to exit the gathering entirely. No rule of etiquette decrees that you must stick around and be the unwilling audience for their drama.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

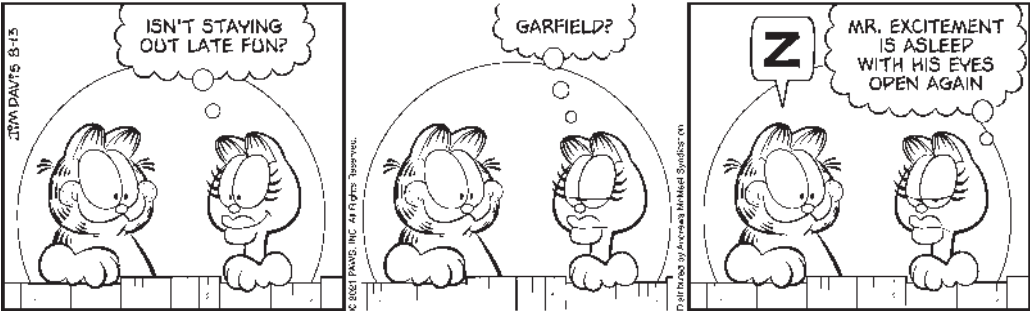
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

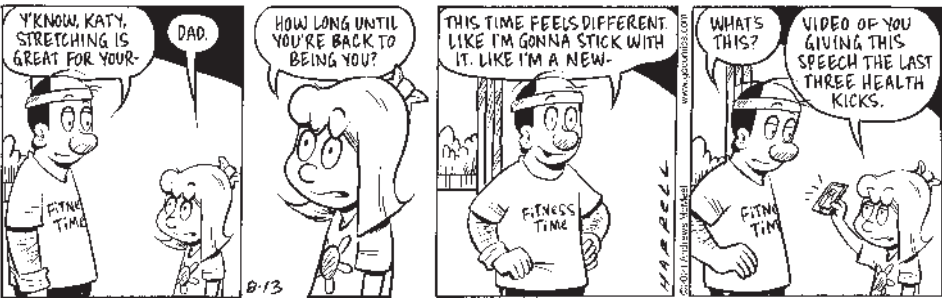
By Bill Waterson



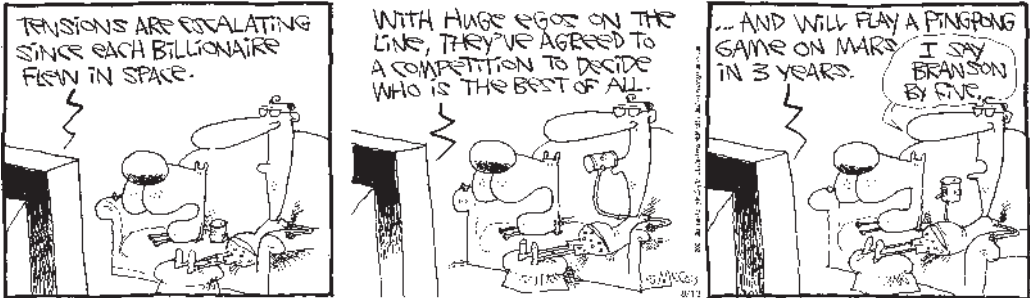
By Jim Davis



By Bryan Basset



By Glenn McCoy



By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 35 Millinery 36 Ballet bends 37 Show indifference 40 San — Capistrano 41 Weaving frame 42 Percussionist's sound 46 Denny's rival 47 Author Ferber 48 Clean air org. 49 Specks 50 Cambodia neighbor 51 Gym unit

DOWN 1 Tavern 2 Count start 3 Actress Rossellini 4 Valentine's Day cherub 5 Lotion ingredient 6 "Norma —" 7 Blasting stick 8 Modifying word 9 Mediocre grades 10 "Got it" 11 Grime 16 Tea carrier 19 Chignons 20 Spill the beans 21 Anger 22 People 23 Is in debt 25 "Act now!" 26 Train driver 27 Initial chip 28 Hardy lass 30 Unforeseen problem 33 Pounds 34 Thick chunk 36 Cougars 37 Lost traction 38 Jolly laugh 39 Cheer (for) 40 Jupiter's wife 42 Costa — Sol 43 Vitamin stat 44 Gorilla 45 Light touch

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 39; Debi Mazar, 57; John Slattery, 59; Dawnn Lewis, 60.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention, and you'll be able to take advantage of unique opportunities. Be open with friends, relatives or your lover, and make plans that will help you create a mutually beneficial connection that is geared toward a healthier future. Refuse to let outsiders interfere with your plans or meaningful relationships. Stick to what's tried and true. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 24, 33, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Distance yourself from anyone who stifles you. Focus on what's important to you and the changes you can make if you put more effort into your plans. Have confidence in who you are and what you have to offer. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Uncertainty will lead to inconsistency. Evaluate the past and present, and rely on your experience to help you put your energy where it will bring the highest return. Discuss your options with someone near and dear to you. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A change in how or where you work will be met with pros and cons. Consider your options, and decide to do what makes you feel happy and healthy. Choose to follow the path that honors your integrity and encourages growth. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Step back if someone pressures you to invest in something unfamiliar or risky. Ask trusted allies, relatives or an expert before you jump into something that can eat your savings or lead you down

the wrong path. When in doubt, say no. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work in conjunction with people who share your objective and concerns. You'll accomplish more if you are open to suggestions and sharing the work and the benefits that unfold. A relationship with a friend or lover will be enlightening. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take an energetic approach to life. Participate in challenges that require physical and mental agility, and play to win. Pay attention to detail, and you'll find an obscure way to be competitive and awe-inspiring to an onlooker. Thrive on positive change. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make plans to socialize with people who spark your imagination and open your mind to new and exciting options. Look at change as growth, and you'll learn something that will help you adjust to the modifications going on around you. Embrace life. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think before you act. If you set unrealistic expectations, disappointment will follow. Ask for help if you need it, and you'll be surprised by a response you receive from someone you least expect. Charm will go a long way in professional situations. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Ask questions, and verify the information you receive. Look for opportunities that will help you save money. Keep your wits about you if someone suggests something unrealistic. Avoid taking a risk that can lead to injury or illness. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Control your emotions when dealing with money, health or contractual matters. If you overreact or take on too much, it will be difficult to reverse the consequences. Avoid joint ventures to ensure you maintain control. Physical improvements will pay off. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have a healthy attitude and an open mind. What you discover will help you handle your finances better and improve a meaningful relationship. Take a unique approach when it comes to pleasing someone you love. A surprise will be rewarding. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dig in and get things done. What you achieve will leave a lasting impression on someone you deem special. Let your intentions be known, and you'll be able to make plans that will result in a positive lifestyle change. *****

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, enthusiastic and generous. You are spontaneous and impressive.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4 6 2 3 1 7 4 9 6 3 5 3 6 9 2 7 5 8 4 7

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7 8 9 6 5 3 1 4 2 4 5 6 8 1 2 3 9 7 1 3 2 4 9 7 8 5 6 2 9 5 3 4 1 7 6 8 6 1 4 9 7 8 2 3 5 3 7 8 2 6 5 4 1 9 9 2 7 5 3 4 6 8 1 5 4 1 7 8 6 9 2 3 8 6 3 1 2 9 5 7 4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/13 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SURFING Solution: 9 letters C E S E L B B U B A L A N C E M I W S H O R E H T A E W T D U S U M M E R F I S H A A O I S H U Y G R E N E Y T R V C L C A S N S T A N C E D C E E G L L U N S N I F R Y R O E A E E L R I O E O R H L T L B N E V O F A I Y T I E S D D I K A E W A R H I T W T D A L A E F L I C T L C O C A A T L R R J E T E L H T A P E S E I P U R L D E E P S A E A R A R M S E K B I I D R A O B L I P C I V N E L T T E C N A R U D N E I A F D S D I R B Y H S A E L R

Miguel Cabrera hits No. 499; Corbin Burnes fans 10 straight



BALTIMORE
(A P) —

Miguel Cabrera hit his 499th career home run, part of a three-hit night for the Detroit Tigers slugger that helped the Tigers hand the Baltimore Orioles their seventh straight loss, 5-2 on Wednesday.

Cabrera's solo shot off Matt Harvey (6-11) in the fifth inning opened the scoring. He also had two singles earlier in the game, plus a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Tarik Skubal (8-10) allowed five hits and walk in six innings in his second straight scoreless outing. He struck out six. Gregory Soto earned his 14th save in 15 chances with a scoreless ninth.

Baltimore did manage to avoid setting an unpleasant major league record. The Orioles had allowed at least nine runs in each of their previous six games. Only the New York Giants (in 1901) and Seattle Mariners (2000) have done that for seven games in a row.

Cabrera went deep with one out in the fifth. The homer drew some cheers from the crowd at Camden Yards, and the 38-year-old slugger gave a little pump of his right fist when the ball cleared the wall in left-center field. It was his 12th home run of the season. He hadn't hit one since Aug. 3.

Cabrera is trying to become the 28th player in major league history—and the first Venezuela native—to reach 500 homers.

Anthony Santander hit a two-run homer for Baltimore in the eighth.

Brewers 10, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Milwaukee right-hander Corbin Burnes struck out 10 straight batters, tying the major league record and leading the Brewers past Chicago.

A first-time All-Star this year, Burnes finished with a career-high 15 strikeouts in eight innings on a steamy night at Wrigley Field. All 10 of Burnes' strikeouts during his streak came on a swinging strike three.

The 26-year-old Burnes tied the mark set by Hall of Famer Tom Seaver of the New York Mets when he fanned 10 straight against San Diego in 1970. Philadelphia ace Aaron Nola matched the record by striking out 10 Mets in a row last June 25.

Burnes struck out the side in the second, third and fourth innings to set a Brewers team record at nine straight. Burnes then fanned Frank Schwindel to open the fifth before the next hitter, Matt Duffy, singled sharply on the first pitch for Chicago's second hit.

Burnes (7-4) allowed four hits, walked none and won his fifth straight decision.



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera follows through on his 499th career home run, during the fifth inning of the team's baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, in Baltimore. AP

Mets 8, Nationals 7

In New York, pinch-hitter Brandon Drury had a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and New York overcame two three-run deficits to beat Washington in the completion of a game suspended by rain the night before.

The regularly scheduled game was then rained out, setting up a single-admission doubleheader Thursday at Citi Field.

Pete Alonso broke out of an 0-for-21 slump with three hits, including an RBI double off the center-field fence that pulled the Mets to 7-6 in the seventh. New York tied it on a throwing error by 6-foot-7 rookie reliever Mason Thompson (0-1) in the eighth and snapped a season-worst four-game slide, winning for only the third time in 12 games.

Juan Soto hit a three-run homer Tuesday night and finished 3 for 4 with a walk in his return to the starting lineup from a sore knee.

Red Sox 20, Rays 8

In Boston, Bobby Dalbec drove in a career-high five runs, Xander Bogaerts and Hunter Renfroe each had four RBIs and Boston routed Tampa Bay.

The Red Sox moved within four games of the AL East-leading Rays with their highest-scoring game since 2015. Tampa Bay had won five in a row overall and six straight against Boston. The Rays had not not allowed at least 20 runs since 2007.

J.D. Martinez had four of Boston's season-high 19 hits. Bogaerts' three-run homer highlighted a six-run burst in the eighth off Rays catcher Francisco Mejia, who moved from

behind the plate to the mound.

Down 20-1, the Rays scored seven times in the ninth against Phillips Valdez, with Brett Phillips hitting his third career grand slam and Mike Zunino connecting for his 22nd homer.

Athletics 6, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Jed Lowrie hit a three-run homer and Elvis Andrus had a solo shot in the eighth inning in Oakland's comeback victory over Cleveland.

Oakland scored twice in the seventh and four times in the eighth, erasing 2-0 and 3-2 deficits to extend its winning streak to six. The A's lead the AL wild-card race by a game over Boston.

Andrus opened the eighth with a tying homer off Nick Sandlin (1-1), who faced three batters and allowed three runs before departing with shoulder tightness.

After Mark Canha was hit by a pitch and Starling Marte singled, Lowrie hit a towering drive to right off Trevor Stephan to give Oakland a 6-3 advantage.

Yankees 5, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Mo., Luke Voit had a two-run single in New York's three-run first inning and the Yankees beat Kansas City for their 12th straight series victory over the Royals.

Chad Green (6-5) got the victory in relief as New York took two of three from Kansas City. Zach Britton earned his first save of the season.

The game-time temperature was 93 degrees with a heat index of 102, the third straight game with a heat index above 100.

Brady Singer (3-8) took the

loss. He allowed five runs on 10 hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Dodgers 8, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Cody Bellinger hit a two-run homer on the 13th pitch of an at-bat, connected later for another two-run drive and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia on a second straight rainy night.

The Phillies, who had an eight-game winning streak snapped Tuesday, fell into a tie for first place in the NL East with Atlanta's win over Cincinnati.

They could have more pressing concerns: All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto left in the first inning after he took two foul tips to his mask. Realmuto was checked on by team trainers but stayed in the game to catch the rest of the inning. There was no immediate update on Realmuto's condition.

Blue Jays 10, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 38th home run, but Toronto hit it out of the park four times, including two from George Springer and a grand slam by Teoscar Hernandez, to beat Los Angeles.

Lourdes Gurriel also homered for Toronto, which has won 12 of its last 14 games and is second in the majors with 172 home runs. Rookie Alek Manoah (5-1) struck out 11 and won for the fourth time in his last five starts.

Springer extended Toronto's lead to 2-0 in the third inning with a solo shot to left-center off Dylan Bundy (2-9). He connected again in the ninth for the 17th multihomer game of his career and third this season.

Astros 5, Rockies 1

In Houston, Aledmys Diaz had three hits and drove in three runs to help Houston beat Colorado.

Diaz tied it with an RBI single in the first and gave the Astros the lead with a run-scoring single in the third. Houston was up by three in the seventh when he sent home another run with a double to make it 5-1.

Diaz has 19 hits and 14 RBIs in the last 13 games after missing about six weeks with a fractured hand.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Adam Wainwright extended his dominance of Pittsburgh with a two-hit shutout for St. Louis.

The 39-year-old Wainwright (11-6) allowed a pair of singles by Colin Moran in the second and fifth innings, and then retired the last 15 batters. Wainwright needed just 88 pitches for his 11th shutout and first since 2016. He struck out seven.

Wainwright won his fourth straight start, and he has been the winning pitcher in each of his last six starts against the Pirates. He has also won eight consecutive decisions versus the Pirates since losing to Pittsburgh on opening day in 2016.

Wainwright doubled in the fifth and hit an RBI single an inning later.

Braves 8, Reds 6, 11 innings

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies hit a three-run homer off Lucas Sims in the 11th inning, lifting Atlanta past Cincinnati.

Albies' 19th homer sailed 412 feet into the right-field stands to send Truist Park into a wild celebration. He drove in

placement runner Adam Duvall and Joc Pederson, whom Sims (4-2) walked.

Kyle Farmer singled in the tiebreaking run in the 11th inning against Edgar Santana (3-0), and Joey Votto hit a pair of two-run homers for the Reds.

Votto sent the game into extra innings by taking closer Will Smith deep in the ninth.

Atlanta has won seven of eight.

Twins 1, White Sox 0

In Minneapolis, rookie Bailey Ober shut out Chicago into the sixth inning. Jorge Polanco homered and last-place Minnesota Twins took another series from a playoff contender.

Minnesota won two of three against AL Central-leading Chicago after taking three of four at AL West-leading Houston.

Caleb Thielbar (4-0), Juan Minaya and Alex Colomé worked 3 2/3 hitless innings in relief of Ober, with Colomé getting the last three outs for his seventh save in 11 chances.

Marlins 7, Padres 0

In San Diego, Lewis Brinson hit two of Miami's three home runs off rookie lefty Ryan Weathers. Sandy Alcantara shut down San Diego for seven innings and the Marlins avoided a winless trip.

The Marlins snapped a five-game losing streak — all on this trip through Colorado and San Diego — while the Padres had their four-game winning streak stopped.

Alcantara (7-10) scattered four hits, struck out seven and walked two. Weathers (4-5) has allowed six homers in his last three starts.

Florida rookie Bryan De La Cruz hit his first career homer.

Giants 7, Diamondbacks 2

In San Francisco, Kevin Gausman singled twice and pitched five uneven innings in his first start following the birth of his daughter, and San Francisco beat Arizona for its fourth straight win.

Buster Posey had two hits, including his 15th home run. LaMonte Wade Jr., Brandon Crawford and Alex Dickerson also homered for San Francisco.

Ketel Marte singled twice for Arizona, which is 2-14 against the Giants this season. The Diamondbacks have dropped nine of 11 and became the first team in the majors with 80 losses.

Gausman (11-5) matched his season high of four walks but beat the Diamondbacks for the fourth time in four starts this season. The Giants ace had five strikeouts and allowed four hits and two runs, one of them earned.

Merrill Kelly (7-9) took the loss.

Lionel Messi eyes Champions League trophy with PSG



PARIS (AP)—Lionel Messi said he's "in the right place" to win another Champions League trophy and cited a reunion with Neymar as a key factor in his decision to sign with Paris Saint-Germain.

The 34-year-old Argentina star spoke at his introductory news conference at Parc des Princes stadium on Wednesday, the morning after signing a two-year deal with the option for a third season after leaving Barcelona.

"My goal and dream is to raise another Champion's (League Trophy) and I believe that I am in the right place to have the best chances to achieve that," Messi said.

"When you see this squad, you really want to play with them because there are so many possibilities," he added. "We have the same goal. And Neymar of course did a lot and was important for my choice."

Qatari-backed PSG has been desperate to win the Champions League, falling just short when it lost the 2020 final to Bayern Munich. Messi helped Barcelona win four Champions League trophies.

Messi's arrival gives PSG formidable attacking options as he links up with not only Neymar—his former teammate at Barcelona—but also France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappe.

"I'm going to play with best players, it's very nice, it's



Lionel Messi, right, poses with his jersey with PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi during a press conference Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021 at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

incredible to be able to experience this," Messi said when asked about playing with Mbappe and Neymar.

Besides Neymar, he specifically cited Argentina teammates and PSG players Ángel di María and Leandro Paredes.

"Obviously, one of the reasons (I came) was the locker room: Neymar, Di María, Paredes, whom I know."

Messi said he is "ready" to start playing with PSG, which hosts Strasbourg on Saturday night.

"When I feel it, when the staff

thinks I'm ok, I'll be ready. I'm willing to play," he said.

Messi became the most high-profile free agent in soccer history after his attempts to stay at Barcelona were rejected last week by the Spanish league because the salary would not comply with financial regulations, with the Catalan club burdened by debts of more than 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion).

PSG moved quickly to sign the Argentina star. The team, Messi said, "positioned themselves and everything went really fast and it was easy. It

happened in little time. It was a difficult situation and they were efficient."

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino quickly made contact with his fellow Argentine after Barcelona announced last Thursday that Messi would be leaving the club he joined as a 13-year-old boy.

Messi won every major honor with Barcelona and was granted a tearful exit news conference on Sunday to signal the end of an era. Only Cristiano Ronaldo in the current era challenges Messi's

status as an all-time great.

While PSG had to pay 222 million euros (then \$261 million) to sign Neymar from Barcelona in 2017, there was no transfer fee for Messi.

No salary details were given, but a person with knowledge of the negotiations earlier told The Associated Press that Messi is set to earn around 35 million euros (\$41 million) net annually. The person said on condition of anonymity before the contract was signed.

PSG will be hoping not only that Messi helps the team re-

gain the French title it lost to Lille last season but finally win the Champions League.

Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi praised "a historic day for the club, football world and it is a fantastic moment for us."

"Everybody knows Leo... He makes the football magic, beautiful and he's a winner. It will be very exciting for our supporters and the fans worldwide," he added. "We have big ambition."

The addition of Messi, Al-Khelaifi said, should help the team keep Mbappe longterm. The French star's contract is set to expire after the 2021-22 season.

"He wanted a competitive team and I think we have the most competitive in the world, so there is no excuse for him now," Al-Khelaifi said. "He can't do anything else but stay."

PSG supporters have seen their club transformed over the last decade since the influx of Qatari sovereign wealth investment linked to the emir. Once Messi's Barcelona contract expired—and the Catalan club was unable to afford to keep him—PSG was one of the few clubs that could finance a deal to sign the six-time world player of the year.

Messi will wear the No. 30 jersey—the same number he wore in his first two seasons with Barcelona before switching to No. 19 and then the prized No. 10, which Neymar gets to keep at PSG.

Hammon hopes it becomes normal for women to get NBA jobs



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Becky Hammon can't wait for the time when it's normal for women to interview for head coaching positions in the NBA and their gender isn't the story.

"It's huge and important. It's something that can't be (checking) the box," the Spurs assistant told The Associated Press. "You have to hire the best person. Half the world's population hasn't been tapped for their mind and ability and skill sets in the sports world. It's something that needs to change."

Hammon is entering her eighth season as an assistant and has been interviewed for several head coach openings but hasn't gotten an offer to be the first woman to lead a NBA team.

"There's 30 jobs and they are incredibly hard to get," Hammon said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "When I saw there are 30 jobs, not all 30 are available, so I'm really talking about three or four and they are really hard to get."

While Hammon would love to be the first, she hopes it's for

NBA BRIEFS

Bulls finalize sign-trade deal for DeRozan with San Antonio

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls finalized a sign-and-trade deal with the San Antonio Spurs for high-scoring small forward DeMar DeRozan on Wednesday.

DeRozan agreed last week to a three-year, \$85 million contract. Chicago sent veteran forwards Thaddeus Young and Al-Farouq Aminu, a protected first-round draft pick and two second-round draft picks to the Spurs.

A four-time All-Star, DeRozan tweeted an animated video set to the Bulls' intro song "SIRIUS" by the Alan Parsons Project. It shows a pack of bulls running through the streets of Chicago, past landmarks such as the Art Institute, L tracks, the Chicago

Theatre marquee and the Michael Jordan statue at the United Center.

DeRozan has averaged more than 20 points in each of the past eight seasons with Toronto and San Antonio. He scored 21.6 per game last year and shot just under 50%. But San Antonio missed the playoffs for a second straight season after an NBA-record 22 straight appearances.

DeRozan, who turned 32 on Saturday, figures to form a high-scoring trio with Olympian Zach LaVine and two-time All-Star center Nikola Vucevic, with newcomer Lonzo Ball leading a revamped backcourt following a sign-and-trade from New Orleans.

The Bulls are looking to make a jump in the Eastern Conference after missing the playoffs for the fourth straight year. They finished

11th in the East at 31-41—two games behind Charlotte for the final play-in spot.

Free-agent guard Reggie Jackson re-signs with LA Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Reggie Jackson is returning to the Los Angeles Clippers after helping the team reach the Western Conference finals for the first time. The team announced the re-signing of the free-agent point guard on Wednesday.

Jackson averaged 10.7 points, 3.1 assists and 2.9 rebounds last season while shooting a career-high 43% from 3-point range.

He elevated his game in the playoffs, averaging 17.8 points, 3.4 assists and 3.2 rebounds while Kawhi Leonard missed the team's final eight games with a partially torn

ACL. Jackson shot 41% from 3-point range and a career-best 48% from the field. He ranked second in the league in total 3-pointers made with 58 during the playoffs, when he started 17 of 19 games.

"Reggie elevates our team with his energy, his confidence, and his ability to be at his best in the biggest moments," said Lawrence Frank, president of basketball operations. "He was an important part of our team last season, and he will continue to be going forward."

The 31-year-old guard also has played for Oklahoma City and Detroit during his 10-year NBA career.

Other signings by the Clippers include free-agent forward Justise Winslow, and guards Brandon Boston Jr., Keon Johnson and Jason Preston.

the right reasons.

"Please don't hire me to check a box. That's the worst thing you can do for me," she said. "Hire me because of my skill sets and coaching, who

am I as a person, hire me for those."

Hammon was a finalist for the Portland Trail Blazers job, which went to Chauncey Billups.

"I can't speak for organizations across the league and the whole sports world. I can tell you they were asking me legitimate coaching questions," the 44-year-old said. "When

you get to this level, you've got to hire the best person for the job and the person who fits your organization the best."

Hammon spoke from Las Vegas, where she was watching

the NBA summer league, but on Thursday her eyes will be on Phoenix, the site of the inaugural WNBA Commissioner's Cup championship game between Seattle and Connecticut, which will be streamed on Amazon Prime Video.

"It's a really good idea. Another opportunity for people to see these women compete at the highest level," she said. "It's not foreign to women playing overseas. The WNBA players are used to it."

She played in a few cup championships while competing overseas during the winters.

"They are always fun, always bonuses in everyone's contract. That was overseas," she said. "Put a little something extra on the line."

While Hammon is excited about the game, not all the players are thrilled by the timing. Five of the Storm's players were at the Tokyo Olympics, including stars Breanna Stewart, Jewell Loyd and Sue Bird, who helped the U.S. win a seventh consecutive gold medal.

"Obviously it's not the best for us," Stewart said in Tokyo. "We'll see what happens."

Every little bit adds up for HANMI golf tournament



Despite challenging times, the spirit of goodwill prevails in The Marianas as dozens of companies have donated cash to a good cause through this Saturday's 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

The tournament will benefit the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, which will bring an estimated 2,000 visitors to The Marianas in June of next year.

"The island-wide response has been overwhelming!" said tournament chair Glenn Policare. "Even in tough times, the business community of Saipan dug down deep for this year's tournament."

Cash sponsors include Island Training Solutions, Korean Community of Saipan, Century Hotel, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Yaong



Jinsik Lee of Artman Environmental Corp., right, donates \$750 on Aug. 10, 2021, for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. Receiving the donation is tournament committee member Philip Choi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Corp. K.L. Carr Ent., Sky Tour, Hana Tour, Mode Tour, Yes Tour, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, and Pacific Eagle. Presidential Suite Sponsors for this year's tournament donating \$2,000 or more are the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Marianas Visitors Authority. Deluxe Package Sponsors

donating \$1,000 or more are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors donating \$750 or more are GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, IT&E, Kautz Glass, and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package Sponsors donating \$500



Century Hotel general manager Ivan Quichocho, right, donates \$200 to the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021, at Century Hotel. Also pictured is tournament committee chair Glenn Policare.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

or more are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corporation, Dial Rent to Own, DOCOMO Pacific Saipan, Ernst and Young, Ina's Kitchen, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Kensington Saipan Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Pacific Saipan, and

Art Man Environment Corp.

Donating a combination of cash and in-kind donations were Hyatt Regency Saipan, The Hut, Aqua Resort Club, Armatech, and IP&E Shell Marianas. United Equipment Rental is sponsoring this year's \$10,000 Hole in One prize.

The tournament is also sup-

ported by numerous other in-kind sponsors.

Golfers will have the chance to win several hole-in-one prizes, including a 2021 Toyota Camry LE from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2021 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, and a 2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors Company, and \$10,000 cash from United Equipment Rental.

Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

For more information, contact Policare at glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	69	45	.605	—
Boston	66	50	.569	4
New York	63	51	.553	6
Toronto	62	51	.549	6½
Baltimore	38	74	.339	30

Central Division

Chicago	67	48	.583	—
Cleveland	55	57	.491	10½
Detroit	56	60	.483	11½
Minnesota	50	65	.435	17
Kansas City	49	64	.434	17

West Division

Houston	68	46	.596	—
Oakland	66	48	.579	2
Seattle	60	55	.522	8½
Los Angeles	57	58	.496	11½
Texas	40	74	.351	28

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	59	55	.518	—
Philadelphia	59	55	.518	—
New York	57	55	.509	1
Washington	50	63	.442	8½
Miami	48	67	.417	11½

Central Division

Milwaukee	69	46	.600	—
Cincinnati	61	54	.530	8
St. Louis	57	56	.504	11
Chicago	52	64	.448	17½
Pittsburgh	41	73	.360	27½

West Division

San Francisco	73	41	.640	—
Los Angeles	69	45	.605	4
San Diego	66	50	.569	8
Colorado	51	63	.447	22
Arizona	35	80	.304	38½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMIFA STANDINGS

(As of Aug. 9, 2021)

Marianas Soccer League

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Paire	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
NMI U18 NT	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
TanHoldings	2	1	0	1	6	3	3	3
MP United	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
Kanoa	2	1	0	1	5	7	-2	3
Old B Bank	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0

Marianas Soccer League 2

Saipan United	3	2	0	1	14	9	5	6
Bangladesh Y	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	5
NMI WNT	2	1	1	0	6	4	2	4
The One	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
Island Star	3	1	1	1	6	7	-1	4
Shirley's	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
Bangladesh	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1
Matansa	1	0	0	1	2	6	-4	0

FAMILY

From Page 24

were tied and was told I had second place at the last race. There are no secrets, just do your best," she said.

When asked to whom she's dedicating her victory to, Nanako's ready answer is to her ever-supportive family.

"I'm dedicating my victory to my parents and grandparents and to my Team Trench Tech *niño* Cuki and *niña* Mari and family."

On her No. 1 goal for next season, she said she wants nothing less than to successfully defend her championship.

Dave, for his part, said riding and winning in motocross with her two daughters—other daughter Mikayo also finished seventh in the Power Puff



From left, Nanako, Dave, and Miyako Celis pose after Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Monster Energy Point Series Race awards banquet last July 27 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Class—is always an unbelievable feeling.

"It's a great feeling riding with my daughters. This hobby brought me and my family closer together. A family that rides together, bonds better," he said.

And Dave's wife, Shoko, couldn't agree more.

"I am very much excited and thrilled as we all waited for this to happen for a while now. I am glad my children were able to come across this opportunity to experience and share the love of their father's sport," she said.

First, second, and third place received \$200, \$150, and \$100 cash prizes, certificates of recognition, plus the No. 1, 2, and 3 plates that they can use for next season. First place also got a gigantic plastic cart from YCO True Value.

PAIRE

From Page 24

United past Island Star after scoring four goals in succession. Michael James Denevan tallied the other goal for Saipan United right in the first minute of the match before Esablan had his string of goals in the fifth, 32nd, 39th, and 49th minute.

Island Star, which absorbed its first loss after getting a victory and a draw in its first two matches.

NMI Women NT 5, Shirley's 3

In last Friday's game in the MSL 2, the NMI Women's National Team broke into the win column after settling for a draw in its season debut.

Jannah Casarino had a hat trick to lead the NMI WNT's victory. She found the back of the net in the 25th, 26th, and 37th minute, while Summer Manahane and Kaithlyn Chavez posted the last two after hitting the board in the 42nd and 52nd

minute, respectively.

Three different players also scored in a losing effort for Shirley's. Jack Phan Hojin Woo, and Xin Wen Jin lit up the board for Shirley's in the third, 31st, and 46th minute.

Bangladesh Youth 4, Bangladesh FC 2

Bangladesh Youth also got its victory of the season after topping Bangladesh FC.

Isaiah Hossain had a pair of goals for Bangladesh Youth, while Rassel Rassel

and Shukqur Ali chipped in one apiece.

Bangladesh FC drew its twin goals from Md. Soheil Akanda.

MP United 2, Old B Bank 1

In the other game in MSL last Sunday, MP United edged the Old B Bank to bounce back from its season opening defeat.

After yielding a goal to Old B Bank's John Canape in the 28th minute, MP United managed to fight back, thanks

to Yoshi Mafnas and Skyler Poon, who hit their targets in the 51st and 80th minute, respectively.

TanHoldings 5, Old B Bank 1

TanHoldings earlier handed Old B Bank a loss last Friday.

Brandon Tenotio, Martin Jambor, Reginal Pascual, Joshua Waldo, and Xiong Zhe Li contributed one goal apiece for TanHoldings, while only Rex De Jose scored for the winless Old B Bank.

BADMINTON

From Page 24

bers of our logistic team so we want to hold as many tournaments as we can at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which will be the venue of our competition in the Mini Games," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said.

During the IT&E Bad-

minton Team Tournament, NMBA used four courts and put temporary lines at the facility. For the Mini Games, NMBA is proposing to put up five courts with one allotted for warm-up. Appropriate court surface (removable flooring) will also be installed at the Ada Gym, which will undergo renovations this year with completion date set for

early next in time for the Mini Games that will be held from June 17 to 25.

Janelle Pangilinan, who coordinated the IT&E event and is looking to represent the CNMI anew in the Mini Games after competing in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, said that her fellow players struggled a bit while playing at the Ada Gym because it's

been awhile since they last had games at the facility.

"But we love the high ceiling and it's a great opportunity for us to get the feeling of playing in a bigger venue. Players are hoping that better lights will be installed and lines will be much brighter as we hold more competitions, especially at the latter part of our preparations for the Mini

Games. It's great that we get to play at the Ada Gym this early so we would know what should be done to get the facility ready," Pangilinan said.

The badminton competition in the Pacific Mini Games 2021, based on the initial entry by numbers provided to the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, will feature 12 countries and 108 players. The

countries that have expressed interest in sending teams to the CNMI for the Mini Games include the Cook Islands, Guam, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis & Futuna, and Tahiti. The badminton competition will have the team men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles events. (PR)



**Miguel Cabrera
hits No. 499;
Corbin Burnes
fans 10 straight**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Every little bit
adds up for
HANMI golf
tournament**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021

'Family that rides together, bonds better'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Celis family did a double celebration during Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Monster Energy Point Series Race awards banquet last July 27 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



This, after the father-and-daughter pair of Dave and Nanako Celis took home the No. 1 plate in the Veteran Class and the Power Puff Class, respectively.

Dave made it 7-for-7 after sweeping all monthly races in the highly competitive division by finishing with the most points in the season's final race at the Cowtown Raceway Park last July 24 with 47 points.

That gave the 43-year-old from Chalan Kanoa a total of 332 points to beat his closest pursuer and training buddy, Cuki Alvarez (309 points), and eventual third-placer Melvin Cepeda (276 points). Alvarez and Cepeda incidentally also finished 2-3 in the last race with 45 points and 40



Nanako, left, and father Dave Celis in action during the last race of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Monster Energy Point Series last July 24 at the Cowtown Raceway Park.

points, respectively.

Aboard his 2021 Yamaha YZ250F, the elder Celis said he just applied his tried-and-tested riding technique.

"Sure and steady won me the race.

I just raced hard but not reckless. I just rode my bike as smart as I can so I won't wipe out," he said.

Aside from his Sunday warrior mentality in always training at the



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Cowtown track every Sunday, Celis also attributed his success in the sport to his renewed dedication to keeping himself in shape.

"Lots of fitness workouts also

helped me with my riding skills. I do lots of running so I can have good stamina in order for me to ride strong with steady speed constantly," he said, while adding that he runs 5 miles a day for a total of 25 miles a week.

"Without my fitness workouts I don't think I could've won," he said.

Nanako, for her part, edged runner-up Billie Pangelinan for the season championship in the ladies division after both riders finished with identical 304 points. The 13-year-old student from Hopwood Middle School, however, took the plum after beating Pangelinan in head-to-head races, 4-3. Celis won in rounds 2, 3, 6, and 7, while Pangelinan took the wins in rounds 1, 4, and 5.

It took the final race last July 24 to determine the winner of the Power Puff Class with Nanako aboard her Yamaha YZ85cc topping her rival with a razor-thin margin of 42-41. Third place overall went to Edinna Cepeda with her 257 points, while the July race was won by Filomenaleonisa Iakopo with her 47 points with Nanako and Pangelinan coming in second and third.

For Nanako, who only started motocross a year ago at the Kan Pacific temporary track, her winning the division championship was made more special after learning that she trailed Pangelinan following the sixth race.

"It feels good to be at the top of my division especially since Billie and I

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Paire, Saipan United take lead



Saipan United's Mark Esalan keeps control of the ball during an earlier game in the Marianas Soccer League 2 last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. Esalan scored three goals in Southern United's 5-3 win over Island Star last Friday.

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Paire Football Club and Saipan United took the early lead in their respective divisions in the Marianas Soccer League Summer Season 2021 after recording wins last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire nipped TanHoldings Football Club, 2-1, to notch its second victory in as many games and move to solo first place in the team standings in MSL. Paire made both goals in the second half to steal the win from TanHoldings, which drew first blood off a goal from Ronnel Ocanada in the opening half. Jireh Yobech and Ryuto Yanai delivered the pair of goals for Paire in the second half.

In MSL 2, Saipan United also nailed its second win in three games and took the top spot in the team standings of the eight-squad division after outshining Island Star, 5-3.

Mark Esalan powered Saipan United to victory.

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Four games were simultaneously played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium during the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament held last July 30 and 31.

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Badminton returns to Ada Gym

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association brought the sport back to its first home after holding the IT&E Badminton Team Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last July 30 and 31.

When NMBA was founded in 2006, it hosted games at the Ada Gym for years before the group moved to the TSL Sports Complex. It has been more than a decade now since the NMBA last held a competition at the Ada

Gym and the association plans to continue utilizing the facility in preparations for the Pacific Mini Games 2022 that the CNMI will be hosting.

"The tournaments that we will be holding this year and next will serve as dry-runs for our hosting of the badminton competition in the Pacific Mini Games 2022. We are preparing our players as well as our officials and prospective mem-

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